



THE INDEPENDENT

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Tories join battle in a fight for the party's soul

Leading Tories who yesterday signed the letter to *The Independent* supporting Tony Blair on Europe are to have a showdown with William Hague. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says it will test the Tories' central faith.

"There is a feeling of frustration, rather than anger," said one ex-minister. "We have been silent too long." The feud in the Tory party over a European single currency is heading for a climax. Kenneth Clarke, a former chancellor, and key officers of the Tory Positive European Group have asked for a meeting with the Conservative Party leader in a desperate attempt to get him to drop his policy of ruling out the single currency for 10 years.

The decision by Chris Patten, a former party chairman, to sign yesterday's letter to *The Independent* has raised the stakes, and prevented Mr Hague or his allies from dismissing the pro-European group, which includes Michael Heseltine, Lord Howe, and another former party chairman, John Gummer, as a bunch of has-beens.

The letter, signed by a former prime minister, two former deputy prime ministers and six ex-ministers, criticised Mr Hague's wait-for-ten-years policy and pledged support for the Prime Minister's Euro-enthusiasm: "We believe it important that EMU should succeed and for Britain to prepare now to join a successful single currency."

It has also raised the spectre of a leadership challenge to Mr Hague. Although friends of Mr Patten denied that was his intention, it is seen as a marker.

Mr Patten, the last governor of Hong Kong, who was made a Companion of Honour by Mr Blair in the New Year's Honours List, has told allies he thinks it is "not tenable" for the Tories to go into the next election refusing to take a view about a decision which is the most important facing Britain and Europe since Bretton Woods.

However, the Euro-sceptics surrounding Mr Hague, including some of his most senior Cabinet colleagues, said last night that Mr Hague would not change course now, and they expect the Tories to put the next election on a pledge to save the pound. "Patten's decision to sign the letter was extraordinary. Anyone who wishes to be the next Tory leader, or May-

or of London and supports the Labour Cabinet's line on the Euro would be wise to remember that view is not shared by the majority in the Tory party," said a shadow cabinet source. Another leading Euro-sceptic, Norman Lamont, a former chancellor, told *The Independent* he did not believe Mr Hague would weaken and the vast majority of the party supported the Tory leadership line. "Until today's letter, the 25th anniversary of Britain's going into the EEC, has been greeted with an appropriate deafening silence. Perhaps a more suitable way of commemorating it would be to spell out how the British people were misled about the nature and direction of the EU. They will not be easily misled again about the single currency."

The underlying threat in the letter is that it could lead to a final split in the Tory party. Some Tory MPs have told *The Independent* they are not ruling out leaving the party under Mr Hague. The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, has told friends that some Tories have put feelers out to his party. The decisive split would almost certainly take place if Mr Blair proposed voting by proportional representation, after a referendum, for Westminster polls. For the time being, the Euro-enthusiasts are determined to stand their ground and fight, but are not hopeful.

The showdown with Mr Hague, which is expected to take place soon after the Commons returns from the New Year recess next week, follows a meeting before Christmas between a delegation of Positive European Tories, also led by Mr Clarke, to the party chairman, Lord Parkinson. Some who attended the meeting pointed out that the Tories threatened to go into the next election opposed by the CBI, and they were appalled when Lord Parkinson reportedly said that big business was on the wrong side before the Second World War. The former prime minister Sir Edward Heath, another of the signatories, has told friends he has no intention of leaving the party, but privately believes that Mr Hague has gathered around himself too many Euro-sceptics. Welcoming the support of leading Tories, the Prime Minister's spokesman said the Government's own position on signing up to the euro was coherent and commanded widespread support. "When you have figures of that weight stating what they are supporting, it will aid the debate."

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Piotr Matula, in character as Nostalgic Old Bird, prepares for the return tomorrow of Cirque du Soleil to the Royal Albert Hall in London. He is just one of the acrobats, trapeze artists, fire-eaters and clowns, backed by jazz and cabaret musicians, in the troupe started by two Canadian street performers a decade ago. It now employs a cast of

54 from a dozen countries. The popularity of the compellingly sensuous and lyrical acts means the company is set to play 32 shows over the next month at the 5,000-seat hall. Cirque's latest multi-million pound show is called *Alegria*, a Spanish word expressing elation, and tells the tale of an enchanted journey. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

INSIDE TODAY

Mobile phone habit costs the British dear
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Photo 98: The century in pictures
THE EYE



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Veils and sails: Navy sets out to recruit Muslim women

Royal Navy is to launch a recruitment drive to bring the first Muslim women into the service. Ian Burrell reports how naval procedures are being changed to accommodate their religious needs.

are currently in talks with their counterparts in Pakistan and Turkey to see if the traditional Muslim veil could be incorporated into a naval uniform.

Otherwise, everything is in place to pipe aboard the first female Muslim recruits into the Royal Navy next September.

Potential Muslim Wrens are expected to undergo a two-week programme on naval life in Glasgow next month.

Commander Keith Manchanda, who is supervising the

recruitment drive, said that he was trying to overcome the beliefs that the Navy made no concessions for minority religions and was discriminatory.

He said that during the past six months a succession of changes had been introduced to make the Navy an attractive career option for Muslim women. "Once we get one or two coming through the system we can use them as role models and once we have that we will get an influx," he said.

The Navy is concerned that it is being ignored by Asian women, whose academic achievements have been highlighted in successive studies.

Muslim women would be allowed to take their swimming test without men present, he said. The Wren's winter "rig" of long-sleeved shirt and trousers could be worn all year round by Muslim ratings who are required to keep their arms and legs covered and would eschew the skirts and short

sleeves worn by Wrens in warmer conditions.

Whether yashmaks are incorporated into the uniform depends largely on the advice from other Muslim countries. In the Turkish navy, female ratings do not wear a veil. Their uniforms are similar to those of Western servicewomen.

Commander Manchanda said that he had been able to reassure a Manchester-based engineering graduate of Bangladeshi parentage that she

would be welcome. "I am hoping she will be among our September intake," he said.

Part of the Navy's difficulty will be overcoming family opposition. Fiaz Khan, of the Ethnic Minority Enterprise Centre in Glasgow, which will host the first induction course next month, said: "We will be equally targeting women as well as men. The problem is that Muslim females are not encouraged to seek careers in the job market in general."

TODAY'S NEWS

Boys lured into learning by non-fiction
Boys should be given more fact-based material - and fewer story books - if they are to catch up with girls at reading, the body which advises ministers on school curriculums said yesterday. The move came as the Government announced a range of measures to redress the balance between girls and boys.

Figures in guidance being sent to all schools show that the gender gap appears early. At seven, 21 per cent of girls reach national curriculum level three in English, compared with just 14 per cent of boys. Page 5

Public soft on criminals
The latest British Crime Survey shows that although a majority of the public think sentences are too lenient, when asked about specific crimes, many people would impose less serious penalties than the courts. And they are very confused about the real levels of violence in society. Page 4

Perfect chips
Fast food chain Burger King has introduced to its US customers what it claims is a tastier "deep-fried potato stick" as part of an offensive against McDonald's. Burger wars are set to hit Britain. Page 3.

'Independent' crystal ball
Helmut Kohl will be re-elected this year, Boris Yeltsin's health will finally collapse and Communist North Korea will explode. Or will it? *The Independent* judiciously predicts some of the surprises that may be in store for the world in 1998. Or not. Page 11

Rugby closed shop
The investors behind England's leading professional rugby union clubs are considering a plan to create a closed shop by blocking Premiership promotion and relegation for the next five years. Page 28



COLUMN ONE

Drunk driver sentenced to a change of address

Santa has gone home and the champagne corks popped on New Year's Eve have been swept away. Now is the season for drunken drivers caught tipsy at the wheel to face the music. But no one is likely to be contemplating a punishment as novel – or convenient – as the one handed down to Dennis Cayse.

Mr Cayse, 50, a self-professed alcoholic from Cincinnati, Ohio, has been charged 24 times under the state's drunken-driving laws since 1971. He has been to prison twice and his driving licence was permanently revoked years ago. Three weeks ago, however, he was hauled over once again, happily driving his wife through the countryside. And he was way over the legal limit.

In delivering a sentence that has enraged anti-drunken driving groups around the country, Judge James Hapner, who has dealt with Mr Cayse on several occasions, offered this solution. Mr Cayse must move to within "easy walking distance" of a liquor store. If he fails to comply within 30 days, then he will be sent to jail for one-and-a-half years.

"He doesn't deny he's an alcoholic, he just doesn't see that as a problem," the judge said, after issuing his ruling. "It's my hope that he'll walk to get his beer and wine. Whether it will work or not, I don't know."

It was partly the track record of Mr Cayse that prompted the state of Ohio two years ago to pass a new law, making Driving Under the Influence (DUI) a felony punishable with prison. Until then, judges were unable to incarcerate repeat offenders.

Local police apparently agree that the judge was at the end of the road in finding new ways to handle Mr Cayse. Saying he had no problem with the sentence, Sheriff's Lieutenant Ronald Ward said: "I have known Dennis for a long time, and I've never seen him sober, except when he was in jail."

There are other provisions in the sentence. In addition to having to move house, Mr Cayse was ordered to spend the first week of every year in prison for the next five years. He was due to begin the first of those seven-day sentences yesterday.

Moreover, Judge Hapner ruled that Mr Cayse must be handcuffed to the passenger-side door whenever he rides in a car. Failing that, there must be a passenger sitting between him and the driver. How these arrangements will be policed was not made clear.

Celeste Teresh, the state president of Ohio's chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (Madd), was less than impressed. "Mr Cayse is a multiple offender and telling to move next to a liquor store is not going to solve the problem," she said yesterday. "It is time to rethink the judicial system on this."

"Easy walking distance", by the way, was carefully defined by Judge Hapner. In a country area it must be three-eighths of a mile or less, while in an urban area half a mile or less would satisfy him. Mr Cayse has made no comment.

— David Osborne, New York



One for the road: Or one for the pavement in Cayse's case

PEOPLE



Chris Evans: Disappointment over Noel's House Party bid was compensated by BSkyB deal

Evans stymied in bid for Crinkley Bottom

Chris Evans demonstrated the size of his ambitions yesterday when he made an offer to produce the BBC's flagship entertainment show and then announced a £3m sponsorship and programme development deal with satellite channel BSkyB.

Evans used his Virgin Radio breakfast show to make a pitch to Noel Edmonds to be allowed to produce the bearded entertainer's Saturday evening television show *Noel's House Party*, which is set in the fictional Crinkley Bottom.

Evans' offer came in the middle of frantic negotiations between the BBC and Edmonds, who owns the rights to the show, about the programme's future.

Noel's House Party, which is a central plank of the BBC's mass entertainment offering, was pulled at the last moment last week after a dispute between the BBC and Edmonds about the quality of the show.

That looked to be resolved – and Evans' growing media empire stymied – when the BBC last night announced that the seven-year-old show will be back next week.

Paul Jackson, head of entertainment at the

BBC, said last night: "It was important for us all at this moment to step back and look at our plans for the remaining shows to ensure that we can offer viewers programmes that will surprise and entertain them in the future." Mr Jackson is believed to have taken the decision last week to pull the show.

Despite this setback Chris Evans then bounced back with the announcement that Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB is to sponsor his morning breakfast show for £3m. In return Evans will plug the satellite channel's shows, such as *Friends*, *ER* and *The Simpsons*, and his Ginger Media Group will develop programme ideas for BSkyB.

Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of Rupert and BSkyB's director of programming, has been wooing Evans as part of her strategy to start creating original programmes for BSkyB.

BSkyB has deep pockets and television industry experts believe Ms Murdoch may be preparing the same kind of massive outlay on programme talent that the channel has already spent on sports rights.

— Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

UPDATE

TOURISM

Caledonian worst for airline delays

Caledonian Airways, which experienced major aircraft maintenance problems in 1997, was the worst airline for delays last summer, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. Caledonian had average delays of more than an hour and a half on flights to Athens, Rhodes, Majorca and Dalaman in Turkey, according to the CA's *Holiday Which?* magazine.

Other poor performers last summer were Airworld Aviation, Sabre Airways and Leisure International, while the airlines with the least delays were Flying Colours, British Airways and Monarch Airlines.

From figures compiled by the Civil Aviation Authority, *Holiday Which?* published a list of average delays of flights to top holiday destinations from 10 UK airports from May-August 1997.

The longest average delay was one of 3hrs 30mins by Gatwick-based Sabre Airways to Dalaman. In contrast, Flying Colours – the carrier for Sunset Holidays and Club 18-30 – had average delays of just one minute to Corfu, five minutes to Rhodes and to Orlando, and just 10 minutes to Malta.

The magazine also claimed that tourists travelling on their own are being unfairly singled out by holiday companies, with solo travellers facing supplements of up to £17 a night. Some companies even put single supplements on fly-drive holidays where no accommodation was offered.

The biggest complaint from singles was that they paid more and got less – and then ended up in the worst room, the magazine said.

CONSUMERISM

Male crèches for bored shoppers

As the January sales scrum kicks off, research warns that one in two British couples who shop together end up arguing.

The study for Bluewater – a massive retail complex due to open in Kent in next year – suggests male crèches as the solution to stop couples bickering.

The crèches would provide "time out" opportunities (male-focused entertainment such as bars) and "escape lanes" such as computer shops.

"We discovered that most couples find it difficult to synchronise their different shopping patterns," said Jeff Klein, Bluewater's marketing director.

Men preferred short bursts of shopping compared to women's preference for longer stints. With their partner's "shopping clock" running at a different speed, there was a danger that women will find their bored partner has wandered away just when they most want feedback.



ECONOMY

End to the north-south divide

Entrepreneurs in both the North and South of England are confident their fortunes will improve dramatically in 1998, a report claimed yesterday.

It said the findings laid to rest the theory of the "north-south divide". The survey by Grant Thornton International and Business Strategies, the economic consultancy, reveals similarly large numbers of owner-managers of small-to-medium sized enterprises in the North, Greater London and the South-west expected turnover to increase sharply this year.

Business people in the North were most optimistic about the coming 12 months. Welsh businessmen were most pessimistic. They expected the lowest level of employment, investment and advertising of any region.

Correction

The correct number for the Royal Albert Hall booking office is 0171 589 8212. We gave the incorrect number yesterday in our preview of the Cirque du Soleil. Apologies to all.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.44	Italy (lira)	2,837
Austria (schillings)	20.15	Japan (yen)	24.92
Belgium (francs)	59.23	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.27	Netherlands (guilders)	3.23
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.81
Denmark (kroner)	10.99	Portugal (escudos)	20.95
France (francs)	9.59	Spain (pesetas)	242.19
Germany (marks)	2.87	Sweden (kroner)	12.76
Greece (drachmes)	457.19	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
Hong Kong (\$)	12.33	Turkey (lira)	330788
Ireland (punts)	1.11	USA (\$)	1.60

Sources: Thomson Cook
Rates for indication purposes only

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Faithful gather for Tarantino's latest opus

The American director Quentin Tarantino was in London last night for a lecture and preview screening of his new movie, *Jackie Brown*, at the National Film Theatre.

The film opens in the UK on 20 March. Since opening in America on Christmas Day it has been garnering rave reviews.

The film, which is based on the Elmore Leonard caper novel *Rum Punch*, is less highly stylised than Tarantino's previous films, *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, and plays fewer games with time and shifts of perspective.

But it retains his trademark dialogue, both arcane and wildly profane, despite containing much less violence. The film is set in present-day Los Angeles but carries with it a strong whiff of the Seventies, in particular the music, attitude and in Pam Grier, a star of the Seventies Blaxploitation genre.

Grier, 48, who has been reduced to television roles before being rescued – like John Travolta – by Tarantino, blows co-stars like Robert De Niro, Samuel L. Jackson, Bridget Fonda and Michael Keaton off the screen with her serene portrayal of the title role.

Jackie Brown is a fading stewardess in her forties who refuses to be beaten by a plot that contains bank robbers, arms dealers, federal agents, stoned surfer chicks and a cynical bail bondsman who falls in love with her.

— Paul McCann

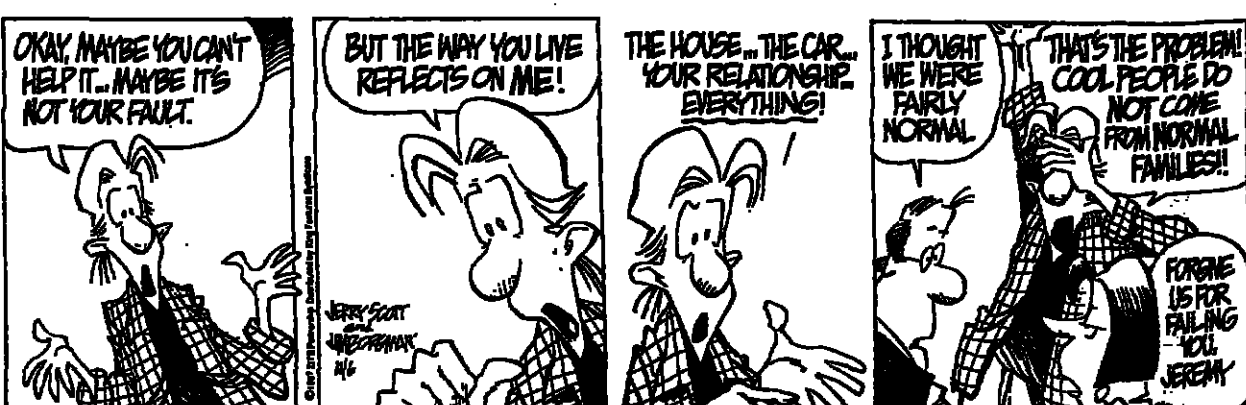
Stalker admits mental assault

A "highly dangerous" stalker, who won a retrial when the Court of Appeal quashed his conviction for terrorising a 21-year-old dental nurse, pleaded guilty yesterday. Clarence Morris's unexpected decision to admit causing Perry Southall psychological harm, came as the young blonde woman steered herself for another witness box ordeal before her tormentor.

For eight months Morris, 38, of Poplar, east London, followed his victim almost everywhere she went. Nearly every day he stood outside the surgery where she worked banging on the windows and bellowing "I love you Perry. I love you."

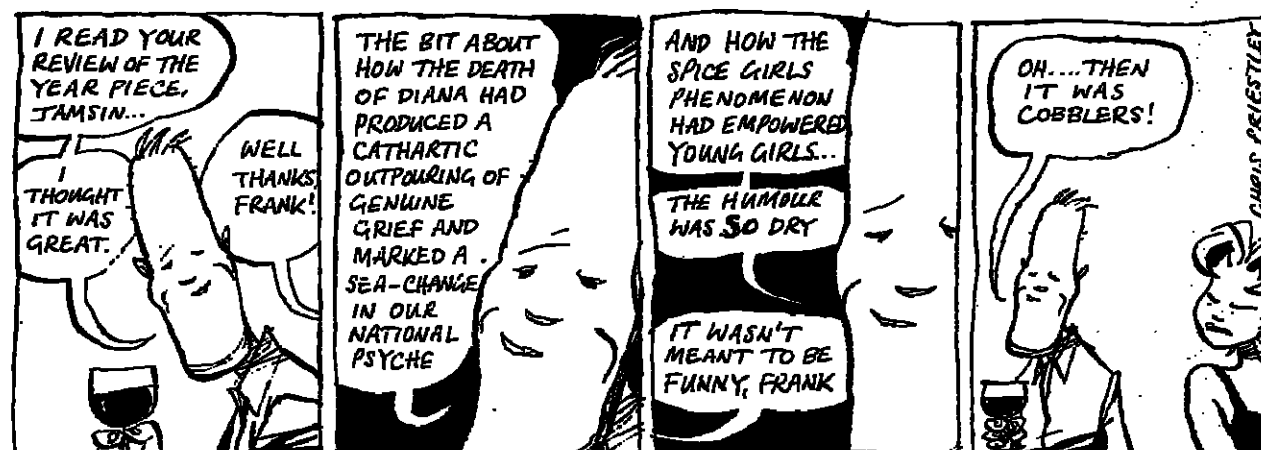


ZITS



by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

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by Chris Priestley

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Public goes soft on criminals and hard on judges

The public would be more lenient on criminals than the courts if they were in charge of sentencing, a Home Office study has found. The report's findings, says Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, calls into question government crime policy for the past decade.

Most people are grossly ignorant about levels of crime and punishment in Britain and hold a widespread disregard for judges and magistrates, a new survey has discovered.

The report suggests the current government and its Tory predecessors are "playing to the gallery" by following the public's apparent desire for tougher sentences.

But detailed analysis reveals that most of the supposed thirst

for locking up offenders and belief that our courts are full of soft-hearted judges is wrong. Sensationalist tabloid newspapers and unbalanced reporting is partly blamed for the misconceptions, although the judiciary are criticised for depending on "pomp and ritual", rather than explanation, to sustain respect.

Results from 8,500 adults questioned in the British Crime Survey in 1996 show that most

people would prefer to use more alternatives to prisons, such as community sentences, and do not support the current policy of building more jails. Most also believe reducing unemployment and increasing family discipline are far better ways of tackling crime than tougher sentences.

The findings, by the Home Office's Research and Statistics Directorate, undermined many widely-held perceptions about the public's view of the justice

system and gives a highly unflattering picture of the judiciary as outdated and aloof.

The report concludes: "The [survey] suggests that there is a crisis of confidence in sentences which needs tackling with some urgency... the findings suggest that a criminal policy of 'playing to the gallery' and extending the use of imprisonment further is not appropriate."

Firstly, there was little public support for building more

prisons to address prison overcrowding. More importantly, the belief that sentences are too lenient is mainly a reflection of misperceptions about current practice.

While four out of five people questioned thought that judiciary was too lenient, when given a specific case they gave lesser sentences. Asked what punishment they would give to a 23-year-old man who burgled an elderly man, just under half wanted a non-cus-

todial sentence. The burglar, which was a real case, was actually given a two-year jail term.

Examples of the public's "widespread ignorance" included 96 per cent of people thought reported crime had either risen or stayed the same between 1993 and 1995, whereas it fell by eight per cent. A small minority of crimes - from six to 20 per cent - are violent, but four out of five people substantially overestimated this proportion.

Eighty-two per cent of the sample thought that judges were out of touch with the public, while the figure for magistrates was 63 per cent.

The report comments: "The court system may not be entirely unique in continuing with eighteenth century strategies of pomp and ritual to sustain its authority."

For a copy of *Attitudes to Punishment*, telephone 0171 273 2084.

Householders to foot bill for worst storms in a decade

Parts of Britain began sweeping up yesterday after some of the worst storms since the great hurricane of 1987. As the death toll rose to two, and flooding followed gales in many parts of the country, Steve Boggan found out that higher insurance premiums would provide another icy blast.

Insurance companies were bracing themselves for more than £500m in claims yesterday as the severe weather took its second victim.

As winds gusting up to 115mph began blowing themselves out, only to be replaced by rain and floods, the Association of British Insurers (ABI) said householders would be asked to foot the bill through increased premiums.

The storm's second victim was named yesterday as 83-year-old Selina Andrews, of Cardiff, who lost a two-day fight for life. She had been in a critical condition since Saturday when she was struck by a large parasol swept up in the high winds in Cardiff city centre.

The weather's first victim was Archibald Howells, 67, of

Kingswinford in the West Midlands. He died on Sunday night when a tree was blown on to his car at Guspel End, Wombourne, Staffordshire.

Among those injured yesterday was an unnamed woman who was described as "critical" after being struck by a falling lamp-post in Cavendish Square, central London. She was taken by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital yesterday with severe head injuries.

Up and down the country, gales were replaced by flooding, rain and thunder as tens of thousands of homes remained without power. In the West Country, 40,000 properties were without electricity. The South Western Electricity Board said as many as 1,000 workmen were working on the faults.

South Wales was particularly hard-hit. In Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, work began restoring power to 50,000 homes while, in Llybri, Devon, lightning cut off a further 6,500 customers. Hundreds of homes on the south coast were flooded. Worst hit areas were the south coast and the south-west, where seaside resorts were on red alert as waves of up to 40ft crashed through hastily prepared defences.

At Selsey, west Sussex, workmen dumped tons of shingle and sandbags on top of wrecked sea defences in a losing battle

against waves which were last night threatening several homes and up to 1,500 caravans. Red coastal flood warnings remained in place in Sussex, while hundreds of rivers and streams in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Dorset and south Wales were on the brink of bursting their banks.

The ABI said companies were already receiving thousands of calls for help, although it described the situation as "severe but not catastrophic".

"This is going to add pressure for premiums to go up during the course of this year," said ABI spokeswoman Suzanne Moore.

Thousands of motorists were left stranded yesterday as emergency breakdown telephone lines were jammed with callers. The AA and the RAC said hundreds of their extra patrol vehicles, standing by for traditional New Year car trouble, were left unused when their phone lines were inundated. BT blamed bad weather coming on the first day after the Christmas break for the "unprecedented" number of calls. The RAC advised members to contact its command centre directly on 01454 209500.

Forecasters reported that the worst of the wind was over, but rain, sleety showers and thunder storms would spread across much of southern Britain, while snow and frost would hit the Midlands, Pennines and North Wales.



Fresh air: Two riders brave the first snow near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, as stormy weather maintains its grip elsewhere. Photograph: Milton Haworth

Hosepipe bans stay despite deluge

The drought may appear to be over for a drenched and wind-blasted Britain, but some water companies were still cautious and sceptical yesterday. Three still have hosepipe or sprinkler bans covering more than 2.5 million people, although few of these will be anxious to water their gardens in the next few days.

So far this year, England and Wales have had more than three times as much rain as the

whole of last January, which was extraordinarily dry.

This one may turn out to be rather wet. On average, more than 50mm has fallen in the first five days. That is more than half the long-term average for the entire month.

The New Year's torrential opening follows above average rainfall for the November and December which closed 1997. Most reservoirs are full and water tables in the underground

aquifers are rising towards their normal level after two and a half years of on-off drought.

But in some areas, mostly in the south east, ground water levels are still at or close to record low levels. Essex and Suffolk Water has no plans to lift its hosepipe and sprinkler ban, which covers 1.7 million people. And Sutton and East Surrey Water is maintaining its sprinkler ban in Sutton, covering 120,000. The two say months of

average or above average rainfall are needed to bring things back to normal.

But the much larger Southern Water Company is likely to lift its hosepipe and sprinkler ban covering some 800,000 people in Sussex soon. "Groundwater levels are at average for the time of year and as far as we're concerned the drought is over," said spokesman Geoff Loader.

— Nicholas Schoon

Mowlam moves to calm loyalists

Rumblings of discontent continued from the loyalist underworld yesterday as Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, met a series of parties in an attempt to calm tensions.

The Government's main concerns centred on the Progressive Unionist Party and Ulster Democratic Party, the small groupings which speak for the main loyalist paramilitary groups.

Yesterday neither was giving guarantees that they would be at the multi-party talks when they resume next Monday at Stormont following the Christmas break. The general fear is that the withdrawal of even one of them from the talks could lead on to a breakdown of the loyalist ceasefire.

The Government is also anxious to keep the largest party, David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, at the Stormont table. Mr Trimble yesterday met Tony Blair at Downing Street for talks which both sides described as constructive.

As the political activity continued, Catholic Belfast buried the latest of its dead, 31-year-old Eddie Treanor, who was shot dead in a loyalist attack on a bar in the north of the city on New Year's Eve. At his funeral, the Catholic bishop of Down & Connor, Dr Patrick Walsh, appealed to politicians to work together, adding: "Do not dispirit us any further with petty shows

of rancour, bitterness and ill-temper. There is so much at stake. Lives are at stake. Every single life is precious."

Reports persist that the Ulster Defence Association, which is one of the elements involved in the talks, was behind the shooting. On Sunday, a majority of UDA members held at the Maze prison voted to withhold their support from the peace process, though it was said this did not mean they favoured ending their ceasefire.

The UDA leader in the jail, Sam McCrory, said: "We want to send a clear message to the Government that we don't want to play second fiddle to Sinn Féin-IRA or any republicans. If they're going to give any concessions to republicans they have to give them to loyalists also."

David Ervine, who is leader of the Progressive Unionist party which has links with another paramilitary group, said after meeting Dr Mowlam: "I'm not talking about breaches or collapses of the ceasefire. I'm talking about a process that needs fixed. If it is not fixed it will run into the sand."

His colleague, Billy Hutchinson said not enough had emerged from the meeting for him to attend the talks next week, adding: "She has got until the end of the week to prove she is going to make changes."

— David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent

Drivers ignore drink advice

Police yesterday blamed a hard core of motorists yesterday for ignoring their "Have none for the road" advice and raising the Christmas drink-driving figures.

One of the worst areas was Wiltshire where 20 per cent of those breath-tested after accidents were positive. The number of positive tests by Essex police showed a rise compared with last year, and police in Staffordshire were "moderately disappointed" after 70 drivers over the limit.

Inspector Les Doble said: "There are still a hard core of drivers out on the roads who seem to have no regard for the consequences of this anti-social behaviour."

Drivers appear to have listened to the message in Scotland where the number of motorists failing the seasonal tests dropped to barely one in every 200 tested.

Britain's big-cat warning

People could be killed in Britain unless the Government wakes up to the reality of leopards and pumas living and breeding in the countryside, an expert warned yesterday.

Quentin Rose, a zoologist and trapper who has investigated big cat sightings for six years, said the big cat phenomenon extended far beyond the legend of the "Beast of Bodmin Moor" and had to be taken seriously.

In the last six years he had identified 27 reliable reports of leopards and 32 of puma, and 18 smaller members of the cat family - jungle cats, leopard cats and ocelots.

Sightings were not confined to the South-west but included Dover, the Midlands, Wales, East Anglia and Scotland. He said: "People are going to be killed sooner or later."

Badgers killers start appeal

Four men convicted on DNA evidence yesterday launched an appeal against their five-month jail sentences for killing a badger. Garry Shaw, 29, of Rowsley, Derbyshire; Michael Holland, 32, of Chaddesden, Derby; David Wragg, 32, of Kilburn, Derbyshire; and 38-year-old Russell Pettipiece, of Alderwasley, Derbyshire, were convicted by Bakewell magistrates last September. They deny joint charges of killing a badger, digging for the animal, and interfering with a sett.

At the end of the prosecution case at Derby Crown Court yesterday, Judge James Orrell quashed Shaw's conviction after a defence submission that he was only a spectator. The appeal was adjourned until today.

Non-fiction



New education could leave

Government plans to raise standards and create education apartheid and ethnic minorities trailing, a leading relations campaigner warned yesterday. Judith Hill, Education Editor, reports on the North of England education conference.

life

0800

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Non-fiction tempts boys to catch up with the girls



Forging ahead: At every stage, more girls reach national curriculum reading levels than their male peers

Photograph: Nicola Kurz

Boys should be given fewer story books and more fact-based material if they are to catch up with girls at reading, schools are to be told. The move was revealed as the Government announced a range of measures to redress the balance. Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent, says it could prove controversial.

Everyone agrees that something has to be done to stop boys from falling further behind girls at school. But not everyone agrees on how to do it. Figures in the new guidance being sent to all schools this month provide stark reading, and they show that the gender gap appears early. At seven, 21 per cent of girls reach national curriculum level three in English, compared with just 14 per cent of boys. At 11, level four is reached by 69 per cent of girls and 57 per cent of boys, and at 14, level five is reached by 66 per cent of girls and 47 per cent of boys.

Now the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is sug-

gesting that boys might do better if the non-fiction books they read at home are used more in school.

But some English experts are worried that the approach will simply reinforce stereotypes. They agree with the Government's advisers that boys should be helped to catch up through clear goals and more structured lessons. But Ann Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said restricting boys' chances to read stories would be wrong.

"If that's what we are going towards that is a really serious mistake, and a seriously narrow menu to put in front of them. It is important to get them to read whatever they want to read, but I think it would be a great mistake to just feed boys factual things," she said.

The QCA's guidance says inspectors have found that few teachers monitor the differences in boys' and girls' reading patterns effectively. They also found poetry was less popular with boys, who often preferred active pursuits to the more "sedentary" reading and writing.

However, boys at secondary school enjoyed performing, and were often articulate and adventurous in oral sessions. They often read extensively and regularly about their in-

terests and hobbies, but felt that their schools took little account of this.

"They had to be cautious about admitting their pleasure in reading because of negative peer group pressure. They often had to make links with girls or rely on adults for recommendations and for opportunities to share their interest in books," one case study says.

Boys' stories often failed to meet the criteria for high grades at GCSE because although they were action-packed and imaginative they were also poorly plotted and weak on characterisation. Girls, on the other hand, placed more emphasis on emotions and characters.

A spokeswoman from the QCA said the guidance aimed to provide practical tips on how to help boys.

"Can Do Better takes the issue of boys' underachievement one step further beyond the stereotypes, for example by looking at how aspects of school life and teaching arrangements impact on boys' work and attitudes to English," she said.

The new guidance will follow a speech yesterday in Manchester by Stephen Byers, the Schools minister, who blamed "laddish anti-learning culture" for boys' poor performance.

New education standards could leave minorities behind

Government plans to raise standards could create educational apartheid and leave ethnic minority pupils trailing, a leading race relations campaigner warned yesterday. Judith Judd, Education Editor, reports from the North of England education conference.

Some ethnic minority pupils could be condemned to sink schools because of the creation of three new categories of schools under legislation now before Parliament.

Under the Government's school standards and framework Bill there may be a pecking order of schools. Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality told local authority representatives

and education experts in Bradford. Those at the top would be quicker to exclude pupils and some ethnic minorities would be concentrated in sink or "Del Boy" schools, he said.

Racial stereotyping by teachers and the high level of exclusions among Afro Caribbean pupils must be tackled if standards are to rise across the board. While exam standards have risen steadily overall, some ethnic minority groups have failed to share in the improvement, Sir Herman added.

In a speech which challenged the Government to review its plans for raising standards, he attacked the national curriculum for teacher training for failing to mention racial disadvantage.

"Teachers need support if they are to tackle the high levels of racial harassment found by inspectors, [and] support to overcome their own unwitting but terribly damaging negative racial stereotyping."

"It is inconceivable that six times more black Caribbean boys deserved to be excluded than their white counterparts."

If standards among ethnic minority pupils were to rise, we needed more ethnic minority teachers. He said the Government should monitor the number of ethnic minority entrants to teacher-training. The last set of figures six years ago showed there were hardly any, and even fewer in senior jobs. Ethnic minority applicants were less likely to find teacher-training places than their white counterparts and figures showed that the problem was getting worse.

He also attacked government advisers at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority for trying to impose a curriculum which reflected the culture of the white English middle class. Young people's disaffection with school would increase if the curriculum failed to reflect the world they knew, he said.

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Brown extends age limit of Welfare to Work

Welfare to Work is to be extended to the over-25s at an extra cost of £250m, Gordon Brown disclosed yesterday. Some sceptics suggested there were not enough unemployed youngsters to fill up the schemes. *From Abrams, Political Correspondent, looks at the thinking behind the Government's latest move.*

A million employers will receive an appeal from the Government this month to take part in its £3.5bn programme designed to help the unemployed off welfare and into work.

Launching pilot schemes for the under-25s in a dozen areas, the Chancellor said that companies should commit themselves to a national crusade to clear the social divisions caused by unemployment.

Under the "pathfinder" schemes which began yesterday, 18- to 24-year-olds who have been out of work for at least six months will be offered four options to get them into work. They will choose between a job, a six-month spell with the Environment Taskforce, six months' voluntary work and full-time education. All those who opt to work will also spend some time studying.

Employers will be offered £60 per week for six months to contribute to the costs of recruiting and employing each young person. Anyone who fails to find a place will have one allocated to them by the Employment Service, and will have their benefit cut if they do not take it.

The extra £250m for over-25s will fund a development of this New Deal scheme - which focuses primarily on the young jobless - designed to encourage the more mature unemployed back into work. Employers will be offered a £75 subsidy to take on the long-term unemployed, lone parents will be offered help to find work and disabled men and women will also be given opportunities to work.

Although the under-25 scheme, funded by a windfall tax on the privatised utilities, may be amended on the basis of the pilots, 10,000 places are expected to be available by June. However, Mr Brown faced questions yesterday on how the Government could fulfil its promise to get 250,000 long-term unemployed youngsters back to

work when only 122,000 had been out of work for more than six months. More were coming up to the six-month mark, he said, and in fact the total numbers of young unemployed were much higher.

"There is a huge problem. There are nearly 400,000 young people who are out of work. We said over the course of a Parliament we would help a quarter of a million young people," he said in an interview on BBC radio.

Launching the scheme in Scotland, he said rights would go hand in hand with responsibilities. There would no longer be an option for young people to stay on benefit. "The old deal, of paying people a few pounds in benefit and then forgetting about them, failed the unemployed and failed Britain. Today begins the long haul towards full employment," he said.

However, David Willetts, the Tory spokesman on employment, said the number of young unemployed had actually halved between the time of Labour's pre-election pledge and the launch of the scheme. "Of course, anything that helps people into work we support. But what we doubt is this programme's imbalance between putting £3.5bn - 90 per cent of the money - towards the young people when already we have great success and they are only putting a relatively small amount to the middle-aged and long-term unemployed, where the problem lies," he said.

The Liberal Democrats, meanwhile, attacked the scheme for its lack of permanence. Any programme funded by a one-off levy could not succeed in the long term, their social security spokesman, David Rendel, said. Ministers should also be cautious about how they spent the money.

"If they rush into nationwide implementation before assessing the project, they may find they have wasted the one-off proceeds of the windfall tax on an expensive flop, leaving the problem of youth unemployment unsolved and unfunded," he said.

Two Labour backbenchers, Lynne Jones and David Hinchliffe, also expressed doubts about the scheme. "If they feel that it is a compulsive scheme, then it might become devalued in their eyes," Ms Jones said.

Mr Hinchliffe warned that the Government needed to be sensitive to individuals' concerns, such as the lack of availability of public transport and the "genuine difficulties of some of the unemployed".

... while in US the low-waged turn to charity



Can you spare a dime: The Depression drove thousands to soup kitchens in the US, now welfare reform could be doing the same

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Even the sharpest critics of welfare reform in the United States have been forced to acknowledge its benefits. The number of claimants has fallen, while predictions of increased destitution have not been borne out - or have they? *Mary Dejevsky weighs evidence.*

Throughout the Western world, the Christmas season is a time for charities to draw

attention to the plight of the poor and hungry - and so they did in the US. That Second Harvest, the biggest food charity in the US, should have released its findings now, rather than a month ago, however, suggests that concern, rather than fund-raising, is its prime motive.

Its preliminary findings have surprised charity workers. According to Second Harvest, which co-ordinates the distribution of more than \$1bn of donated food annually, demand rose last year by 14 per cent on average, and by up to 50 per cent in some places. Donations fell.

"People come to us because their cupboards are bare," said Sister Christine Vladimiroff, a Benedictine nun who runs the Chicago-based charity. "We don't want to have to say, 'Well, ours are, too'."

A survey of 29 cities for the US Conference of Mayors reported last month that requests for emergency food had risen by an average of 16 per cent in the year to June 1997, the largest increase registered for five years. It found almost 20 per cent of applicants were turned away, and that in half the cities surveyed, food donations fell short of what was needed.

Similar reports have come in from cities all over the US. The New York City council is considering a \$2m (£1.2m) in-

crease in its subsidy to city food banks, to cover the rise in demand and fall in donations. From Massachusetts, the Salvation Army reported a 62 per cent increase in demand for its services. Some 14 per cent of the population of the state, one of the richest in the US, were recorded as visiting food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

Some blame the increase in appeals for food directly on welfare cuts in eligibility for food stamps, the main means of state assistance to the poor. It is four months since the last of the federal cuts in food stamps came into effect - these deprive, among others, legal immigrants of working age and narrow the eligibility for disability support - and one theory is that the effect is now working its way through the system.

Second Harvest, however, cautions against oversimplification. Many states have made up benefits withdrawn by the federal government. In Massachusetts, officials note, the increase began before the main cuts in food stamps took effect.

Some identify a double trend which could prove more damaging than the withdrawal of food stamps alone. Their analysis suggests the increased numbers of people applying to charities are not only people whose food stamps and benefits have been cut - for instance, those who have not

found jobs. Some, they say, are the very people for whom the welfare reforms are supposed to be working so well: single mothers who found jobs and are now working.

The vast majority of those who are newly employed are earning only the minimum wage of \$5.75 an hour. For the first six months, in some states longer, these workers' health insurance and child care continue to be subsidised. In time, however, those benefits are withdrawn. The costs of housing, food, childcare and medicine add up to more than a minimum-wage worker can afford. A system of credits makes up some of the gap, and the ideal is that workers will make their way up the job ladder.

The fear of some welfare reformers is, however, that some will never move far beyond the lower rungs - leaving them as badly off in work than they were before.

With economists predicting a possible slowdown in the US economy this year, the prospects for an improvement in the lot of the poorest workers looks bleak. Second Harvest is among the charities hoping that President Bill Clinton, in his State of the Union address this month and the budget proposals that follow, will choose to spend some of the projected US budget surplus on those who risk hunger in the most prosperous country in the world.

Mother tells how fire killed children Diana memorial hotline jammed

The mother who lost her four young children when fire swept through her home in a seaside resort yesterday spoke of her anguish.

Speaking from the hospital where she and her partner are recovering after escaping from the blaze which gutted their home in Harbour Street, Nairn, north east Scotland, Sylvia Porter said: "My kids were my life".

Clearly beside herself with grief, Ms Porter told Grampian Television that she had tried in vain to get back into the burning maisonette.

"I tried to get in to get my children. I just could not get in. I just could not get to them."

Youngsters Greig, 10, Sylvia, six, Douglas, four, and three-month-old Shane perished in Sunday morning's fire which has shocked the local community. The cause remains a mystery.

Sylvia Porter's partner, Douglas Nicoll, who also struggled to rescue the children, was also

clearly distraught throughout the interview.

Lying in his hospital bed where he is recovering from two broken ankles which he sustained when he fell from the upper balcony of the flat, he said the first he had known of the fire was when the second youngest child ran into his room shouting: "Daddy, there's a fire."

Weeping uncontrollably, Mr Nicoll said he had got the family to the upper floor of the house as flames swept through the interior with ferocious speed.

He said he had got the children onto the upper verandah and closed the door behind them and tried to get over the balcony in order to bring them down.

"I thought there was time to get them off but the flames were so intense, and then there was an almighty bang. I knew what it was, it was the verandah below."

The Althorp Estate in Northamptonshire, the final resting place of Diana, Princess of Wales, is set to become one of the most popular summer destinations for day-trippers.

Yesterday, the hotline for tickets opened and almost immediately became jammed. Perhaps after September they should have known. But yesterday staff at Althorp said even they could not have predicted quite the degree of public interest in visiting the family estate where Diana is buried.

From the moment the telephone lines opened at 9am, the operators - around 200 of them - were besieged by a deluge of calls from people wanting to visit the grounds and the converted stable block that will house an exhibition to the princess's life. At times yesterday morning, callers were met by a BT message announcing that lines were too busy. By late yesterday evening, staff were dealing with more than 500

inquiries an hour and had sold 10,000 tickets.

"This was entirely unprecedented so we just did not know what to expect," said an estate spokeswoman. "We always knew it was going to be busy but we were never sure just how busy. We have been receiving calls from all over, from America, Germany, and Holland. There has been great interest."

Before yesterday, staff at Althorp had taken steps to try and cope with demand from would-be visitors. Tickets are being limited to six per person and only visitors who have obtained tickets in advance will be permitted entry. The 24-hour hotline will remain open to until the end of August.

One aspect that might put some people off is the cost of the tickets. At £9.50 for adults, £7 for senior citizens and £5 for children, a trip to Althorp will not be the cheapest of days out.

— Andrew Buncombe

Bristol physicists win prize for sub-atomic breakthrough

Michael Berry, a British physicist based at Bristol University, and Israeli physicist Yakir Aharonov, who got his PhD at Bristol, have won the 1998 Wolf Prize in physics for their research work in quantum mechanics. They will share the \$100,000 (£62,500) prize, the Wolf Foundation, based in Israel, announced yesterday.

The two men won the prize for their discovery of important characteristics in the behaviour of subatomic particles. The foundation cited their "discovery of quantum topological and geometrical phases, specifically the Aharonov-Bohm effect, the Berry phase, and their incorporation into many fields of physics."

Their research "has stimulated and motivated a large amount of theoretical and experimental activity in widely different fields of physics over the last 30 years," the foundation said.

Professor Aharonov, born in 1924, received his PhD from Bristol University. In 1959, he and the late David Bohm successfully

predicted the behaviour of a charged subatomic particle, such as an electron, under certain circumstances - which became known as the Aharonov-Bohm effect. Professor Berry expanded on that work, and his findings are now seen as "an integral part of modern quantum physics".

— Charles Arthur, Science Editor

How the be differ



HAMISH MCRAE ON THE FEAR OF DEFLATION

Every year the Monetary Bank Unit publishes a conversation between long-time subscribers and the editor about the economy and the future. This year will share the views of 500 subscribers over the coming year. It is an interesting mix of economic views and a group I know well. It is a mix of views on the world's economy and the fear of deflation.

It is not yet but it is a great article of the greatest of all time. It is a mix of views on the world's economy and the fear of deflation.

Alan Giddens, US Editor

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Rate
USA	1.66
Japan	160.5
Germany	1.93
France	6.55
Italy	1.93
Spain	166.64
UK	0.79
Switzerland	1.48
Netherlands	2.20
Belgium	36.36
Australia	1.54
New Zealand	1.35
South Africa	6.50
Canada	0.71
South Korea	178.76
India	47.83
Singapore	1.36
Malaysia	3.40
Thailand	54.78
Philippines	48.11
Indonesia	1,547.80
Brazil	2,000.00
Argentina	1,000.00
Chile	800.00
Colombia	1,000.00
Venezuela	200.00
Ecuador	1,000.00
Peru	1,000.00
Uruguay	1,000.00
Paraguay	1,000.00
Bolivia	1,000.00
Costa Rica	1,000.00
Panama	1,000.00
Dominican Republic	1,000.00
Honduras	1,000.00
Nicaragua	1,000.00
El Salvador	1,000.00
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Belize	1,000.00
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Trinidad and Tobago	1,000.00
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Monaco	1,000.00
Liechtenstein	1,000.00
Andorra	1,000.00
San Pierre and Miquelon	1,000.00
French Polynesia	1,000.00
New Caledonia	1,000.00
Wallis and Futuna	1,000.00
French Southern Territories	1,000.00
British Antarctic Territory	1,000.00
British Indian Ocean Territory	1,000.00
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Cayman Islands	1,000.00
Anguilla	1,000.00
Montserrat	1,000.00
Falkland Islands	1,000.00
South Georgia	1,000.00
British Indian Ocean Territory	1,000.00

Other Spot Rates

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Switzerland	1.48
Netherlands	2.20
Belgium	36.36
Australia	1.54
New Zealand	1.35
South Africa	6.50
Canada	0.71
South Korea	178.76
India	47.83
Singapore	1.36
Malaysia	3.40
Thailand	54.78
Philippines	48.11
Indonesia	1,547.80
Brazil	2,000.00
Argentina	1,000.00
Chile	800.00
Colombia	1,000.00
Venezuela	200.00
Ecuador	1,000.00
Peru	1,000.00
Uruguay	1,000.00
Paraguay	1,000.00
Bolivia	1,000.00
Costa Rica	1,000.00
Panama	1,000.00
Dominican Republic	1,000.00
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Anguilla	1,000.00
Montserrat	1,000.00
Falkland Islands	1,000.00
South Georgia	1,000.00
British Indian Ocean Territory	1,000.00

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Country	Rate
USA	1.66
Japan	160.5
Germany	1.93
France	6.55
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Spain	166.64
UK	0.79
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Australia	1.54
New Zealand	1.35
South Africa	6.50
Canada	0.71
South Korea	178.76
India	47.83
Singapore	1.36
Malaysia	3.40
Thailand	54.78
Philippines	48.11
Indonesia	1,547.80
Brazil	2,000.00
Argentina	1,000.00
Chile	800.00
Colombia	1,000.00
Venezuela	200.00
Ecuador	1,000.00
Peru	1,000.00
Uruguay	1,000.00
Paraguay	1,000.00
Bolivia	1,000.00
Costa Rica	1,000.00
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Dominican Republic	1,000.00
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Channel of division: How Europe has split British politics

THE COMMONS SCEPTICS



William Hague's Shadow Cabinet is dominated by Euro-sceptics led by John Redwood.

Michael Howard, Ian Duncan Smith, and Peter Lilley.

If Mr Hague slips, Michael Portillo would challenge for the crown, but is trimming. The Euro-sceptics are underpinned by an effective grass roots force, through Cafe

(Conservative Action for Europe) which includes Lord Tebbit, Ian Duncan-Smith and the former whipless Tory rebels: Sir Richard Body, Nick Budgen, Chris Gill, Teresa Gorman, Tony Marlow, Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor and John Wilkinson. Labour's Euro-sceptics are members of

the European Safeguards Committee, formerly run by ex-MP Peter Shore; the torch is now carried by Dennis Davis, Tony Benn, Alan Simpson, and many members of the Campaign Group of left-wing Labour MPs. Other sceptics include the Bruges Group and the Referendum Movement.



The fallout from yesterday's pro-Europe Tory letter to *The Independent* has provoked renewed speculation about a realignment which crosses traditional party boundaries

THE COMMONS ENTHUSIASTS



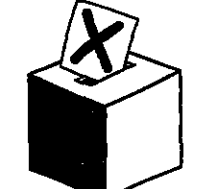
The big hitters on the pro-European wing of the Tory

party have decided to come out fighting behind Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Euro-enthusiasts in the Cabinet, after being silent in the general election.

They are dominated by Tory stars of the past - Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, Lord Howe, John Gummer, and Sir Edward Heath. But they are convinced they speak for the heart of the party some of them joined half a century ago. They have

the backing of the Tory Positive European Group, and the Tory Mainstream group, and a cross-party network through the European Movement. No members of the Cabinet admit to being sceptics but Robin Cook and John Prescott are cautious supporters.

BRITONS FEAR EURO



Most people want to remain in Europe but an equally clear-cut majority oppose involvement in a

Single European Currency.

Mori found that 50 per cent were opposed to monetary union, compared to just 39 per cent in favour.

Only 22 per cent of people wish to sign immediately.

An overwhelming 67 per cent of people were against joining a

United States of Europe with a federal government.

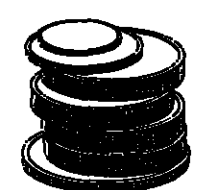
Only 19 per cent said they supported this.

Part of the reason might be the belief that joining would sign Britain up for ever: 65 per cent said they felt Britain would not be able to leave once it had joined.

Sixty per cent believe joining a single currency would result in the transfer of control over the setting of tax rates to politicians in Brussels.

A similar percentage of people feel British taxes would be used to reduce unemployment in other member-states.

BUSINESS OPPONENTS



Although they may be small in number, the Euro-sceptic firms have plenty of clout.

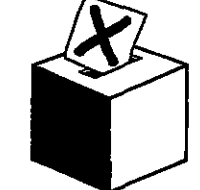
The Institute of Directors, led by Tim Melville-Ross, is firm-

ly Euro-sceptic, as is Dixons, under the arch-Euro-sceptic, Stanley Kalms.

The Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, told the Labour Campaign Group: "It's the wrong time, and the

wrong place ... but it's alright by Helmut ...". But "steady Eddie" says in a glossy brochure to be published on Thursday for Britain's presidency that British firms are right to prepare for the euro.

BRITONS WANT TO KEEP TIES



The most recent opinion poll suggested that, despite being an island nation, most people

think Britain needs to remain part of Europe.

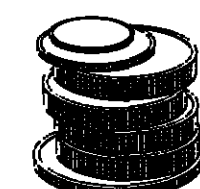
Most Britons believe its future lies with some involvement in Europe. Mori found 58 per cent would rather stay in the EU than pull out. Only 35 per cent said they felt Britain was better off without this bond with its European

partners. Some 28 per cent are encouraged and influenced by the CBI, which has come out in favour of closer European links.

From a purely party political position, Labour's more Euro-friendly stance does not seem to have alienated it from the electorate. The survey, taken in November, found

that 56 per cent would vote Labour if there were an imminent election. The Conservatives would get 30 per cent of votes, the survey suggested. Most Britons are attracted by the possibility of lower interest rates, although the vast majority feel this is unlikely to be a result of closer links.

BUSINESSES WARMING TO EURO



Big Business is firmly behind the moves towards

economic and monetary union, judging that a single currency will bring exchange stability and make it easier to sell goods in Europe.

The CBI president, Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, gave backing to the Chancellor's policy of joining when the time is right. Businesses which support this line include BP, B&W, Vauxhall, Guinness, and Northern Foods.

The Tory Party chairman, Cecil Parkinson has been warned by a pro-Euro delegation that the Tories would lose all credibility if they went into the next general election with the CBI backing Labour, instead of its natural allies in the Conservative Party.

The sceptics: From the top, William Hague, Michael Howard, John Redwood, Lord Tebbit and Baroness Thatcher

The believers: Gordon Brown, Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown, Kenneth Clarke, Chris Patten and Lord Howe

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Patten lays down marker for tilt at future Tory leadership fight

By signing yesterday's letter to the *Independent* challenging William Hague's leadership on Europe, Chris Patten has sided firmly with the pro-European wing of the Tory party. Our Chief Political Correspondent on the battle for the soul of the Conservative Party.

The former Hong Kong governor's decision to sign the letter to the *Independent* was seen by his friends as a move to put down a marker against the Tory leader's scepticism over the single European currency.

"He has made it clear he is not trying to catch the ephemeral mood of the Tory party. It indicates to William Hague that there are forces who are more contemporary than Geoffrey Howe that are not prepared to see the Tory party hijacked by the Euro-sceptics," said one senior Tory who signed the letter.

Mr Patten, who recently bought a house in west London, where he spent New Year before planning a return to his farmhouse in France, has told allies he is not making up his mind about whether to seek a seat in the Commons until the autumn, when he has finished writing his book. The former party chairman has his

BY COLIN BROWN

own "Hurdish" doubts about the euro but regards the euro debate as the most important issue facing Britain and Europe since Bretton Woods, and it is "not tenable" for the Tories to suspend any decision for 10 years.

Lord Howe was behind the decision to organise the letter, and he persuaded Mr Patten to sign it last Friday. The former foreign secretary has taken a leading stand in warning the present leadership of the Tory party that the euro enthusiasts have been silent too long and will not stand back while the party is taken over by the Euro-sceptics around Mr Hague.

Lord Howe delivered his first warning in a letter to Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, before Christmas, described by his allies as "stinging". The letter warned the party chairman that they were prepared to speak out to challenge Mr Hague's policy of ruling out a single currency for 10 years. That was followed by a meeting shortly before Christmas at Central Office with a delegation of the officers of the

Tory Positive European Group, led by Kenneth Clarke, to leave the party chairman in no doubt that they meant business.

Those who attended included Sir Ray Whitney, a right-winger who is pro-Euro, Ian Taylor, a former minister and David Curry, the former agriculture minister. Both Mr Taylor and Mr Curry had resigned from Mr Hague's front bench in protest at his line on Europe.

Some members of their group warned Stephen Dorrell, the shadow education secretary, that he could not remain on the fence. Mr Dorrell and Sir George Young, the other pro-Euro spokesman in the shadow cabinet, decided to stay, but are now under pressure to speak out. They were joined by Michael Jack, another pro-Euro Tory, who replaced Mr Curry. The underlying question about the letter is whether it will lead to a final split in the Tory party, with the pro-Euros leaving to form an independent group on the Tory benches.

They could follow Peter Temple-Morris, who is now an independent sitting with Labour, and Hugh Dykes, who defected to the Liberal Democrats after losing his seat.

The introduction of voting by proportional representation for Westminster elections would almost guarantee a split. But Sir Edward Heath has made it clear he is staying put, whatever happens.

EU PRESIDENCY AGENDA

Tony Blair's priorities for the next six months of Britain's presidency of the European Union, marked by a conference in London on Thursday, will be: flexibility in Euro markets; jobs and education; small businesses; and equal opportunities. The Government will host council meetings in Wales and Scotland to open doors to Eu-

rope across Britain. The meetings will include laying the ground for the euro, although Britain has said it will not join the first wave. On Thursday Mr Blair hosts a press conference with the Commission president, Jacques Santer. Over the coming six months there will be EU presidency events in many parts of the country.

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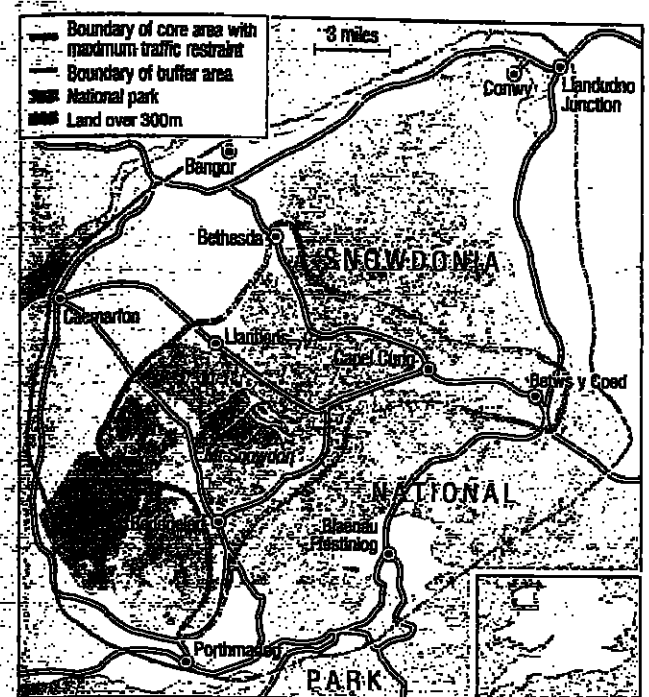
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Drive is on to save Snowdonia from blight by cars



Traffic wardens could scour the highways around the highest mountain in England and Wales, searching out cars parked on the roadside. Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, looks at radical plans to persuade motorists to switch to public transport in Snowdonia National Park.

The national park is already blighted by private cars during August, summer weekends and public holidays. The park authority says the congestion and despoliation are bound to get worse unless something is done. Together with local councils, the Welsh Tourist Board and the Government's Welsh Development Agency, it has commissioned the study from a group of expert consultants, headed by the University of Wales at Cardiff.

The brief is to come up with a strategy which will persuade visitors to the core of the park - the highest, most scenic mountain parts - to leave their vehicles outside this area and either use public transport, or walk or bicycle in.

The park authority is concerned that local people may oppose this strategy, and is anxious to win their support. Locals worry that visitors will be turned away, damaging businesses, and that their freedom to drive around their own area may be restricted.

But, says the park's head of planning policy Peter Ogden, local businesses and employment would hopefully be boosted by shifting people out of their cars. "A lot of people drive into the park for just a day's walking or climbing and spend nothing, or next to nothing, in the area," he said.

"Our aim in trying to get visitors out of their cars is to make them spend more time here, rather than just whizzing through the towns and villages on the way into the core of the park."

New car parking policies are expected to be a key part of the emerging strategy. At present, it is legal to park on any roadside in the area. During peak periods, 1,000 cars or more can be parked along a three mile stretch of the Ogwen Valley which carries the A5 through the park, turning the road into one huge, linear - and entirely free - car park.

Mr Ogden said the consultants will look into the scope for legal restraints on roadside parking without using yellow lines. They will also consider steep increases in parking charges for the small number of car spaces within the core area. At present it costs £4 to park for a day at Pen y Pas, in the heart of the mountains. The 120-space car park there is full by 9.30am for much of the year.

The extra revenue from car parking charges will be spent encouraging people to leave their cars outside. The possibility of non-polluting electric buses, and double decker open-topped sightseeing buses, is being mooted.

"If they are viable in major tourist cities like Bath and London, then why not here?" said Mr Ogden.

The park authority wants to cut the number of cars in the core area, but not the number of visitors. Visitors will be encouraged to leave their cars in the surrounding towns and villages, where there will be parking spaces and bus services.



Green valley: Snowdonia National Park aims to encourage visitors to leave their cars at the edge of the park and use public transport, walk or cycle Photograph: David Hughes/MSI

Prefabs get listed status

Sixteen prefab bungalows built in 1945 under the wartime Temporary Housing Act were yesterday added to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest - the first prefabs to be awarded the accolade.

Decades older than their expected lifespan, the council-owned prefabs in Wake Green Road, Birmingham, are still

much-loved homes, but English Heritage feared their character was at risk from a re-roofing scheme.

About 156,000 temporary houses were built under the Act between 1944 and 1948, when government funds dried up well short of Winston Churchill's goal of half a million new homes.

Most have either been demolished or

totally altered by brick cladding. Aluminium prefabs oxidised away and 8,000 timber-framed homes imported from the United States collapsed after 15 years.

The Wake Green Road homes listed in Grade II yesterday by Tony Banks, the heritage minister, are a particularly well-preserved group of the rare Phoenix type of which less than 2,500 were built. Most of

the detached homes retain original features such as fitted interiors and garden sheds.

English Heritage has just carried out a thematic study of post-war public housing. However the Wake Green listing was hurried forward because of plans by Birmingham City Council to carry out renovation work. With timber and bricks in short supply, the Phoenix pre-fabs were

put together from asbestos sheets on concrete foundations. Elaine Harwood, the EH inspector responsible for post-war buildings research, said the bungalows were "warm and snug ... everybody who is living in them has been there for years and years and won't budge".

Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent

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It's what you want to know

Coach crash driver fined

A French court yesterday sentenced British coach driver Jim Shaw to pay a fine of 12,000 francs (£1,230) over a crash last July in which three British schoolchildren died. Shaw, 43, appeared before a court in Albertville, eastern France, last month following the accident in which his coach drove into a ravine.

Three schoolchildren, 16-year-old Nicola Moore, and 14-year-olds Robert Boardman and Keith Riddings, from the Saint James High School in Bolton, Greater Manchester, died in the crash in the Alps near Moutiers. Nineteen other youngsters were injured, six of them seriously. The court, delivering its sentence, found Shaw guilty of manslaughter and failing to control his vehicle. The prosecutor had called for a fine and a two-month suspended jail term.

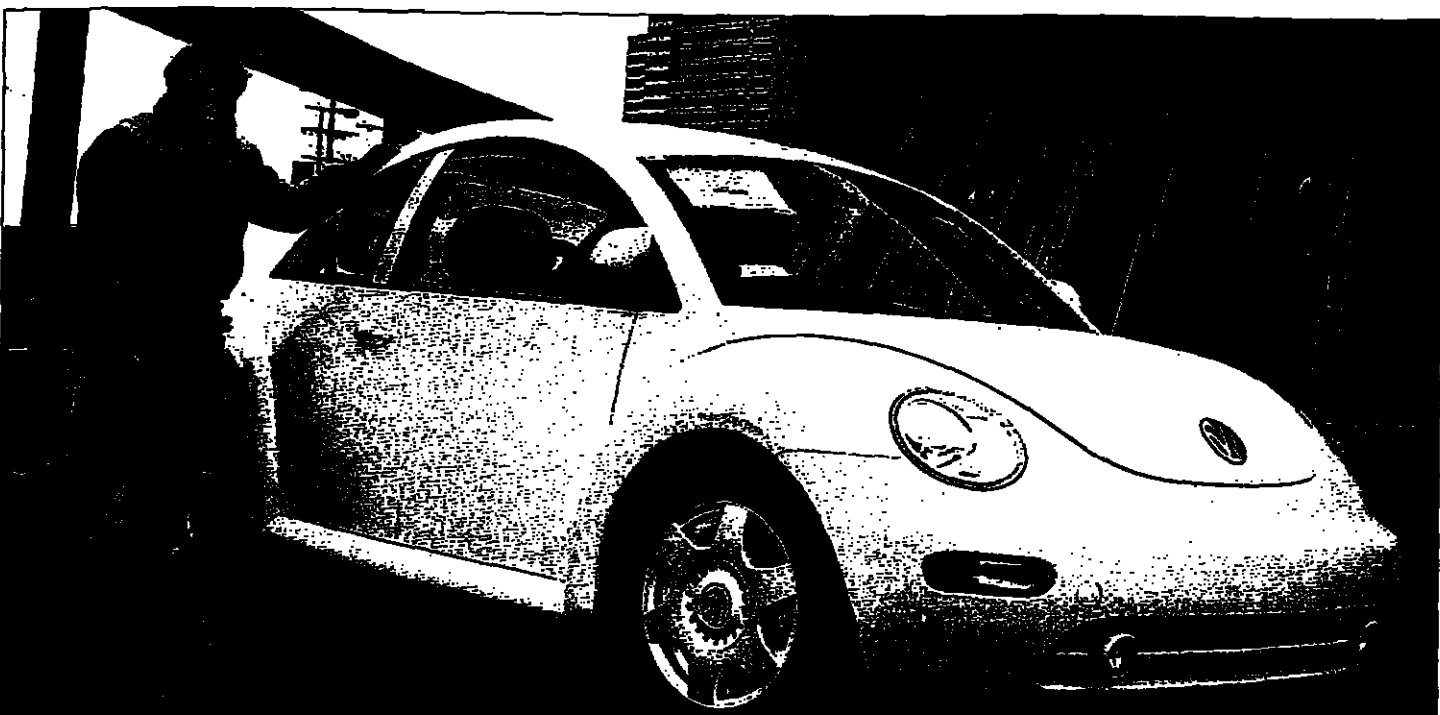
Shotgun husband jailed

A jealous husband who shot his wife three times as she played a round of golf was yesterday jailed for eight years. Godfrey Stuart Jarrett, 58, admitted attempting to murder his wife Julia in "a moment of madness" after she told him she was divorcing him. Stafford Crown Court heard Mrs Jarrett survived the attack, but the court was told she was suffering from post-traumatic stress and hundreds of shotgun pellets are still embedded in her body.

Free radon gas tests offered

The Government is to offer more householders free radon tests in an attempt to cut the risk of lung cancer. Some 52,000 invitations are being issued next week to homes mostly in the West Country, parts of Yorkshire, the North-east and Lancashire.

Return of the People's car – this time with all mod cons



Herbie rides again: The new Beetle, being unveiled in Detroit on Saturday. The car is more retro-chic than utility

Photograph: EPA

Yesterday saw the return to the public of the People's car. The VW Beetle, the world's most popular motor car ever, went on show at the North American Motor Show in Detroit – drawing gasps and praise.

Its new incarnation, however, is unlikely to replicate the sales success of the original. Devised by the Nazis and designed by Ferdinand Porsche in the 1930s, the first Beetle rolled off the production line with a 1.1-litre engine, a rear-mounted, air-cooled engine, a crash gearbox and cable brakes. In 1949, the car sold in the US for a little less than \$800 and more than 21 million have been produced.

The new model, to go on sale later this year, is more up-market than mass market. Retailing at £14,000 – double the cost of the basic VW Polo – the new Beetle will offer air conditioning, a CD player, front and side airbags and – in an undisguised effort to appeal to young women – a flower vase. Described by VW as both "futuristic" and "for young people who remember the past", it is more likely to appeal to those motorists who fancy – and can afford – a trip down memory motorway.

Randeep Ramesh,
Transport Correspondent



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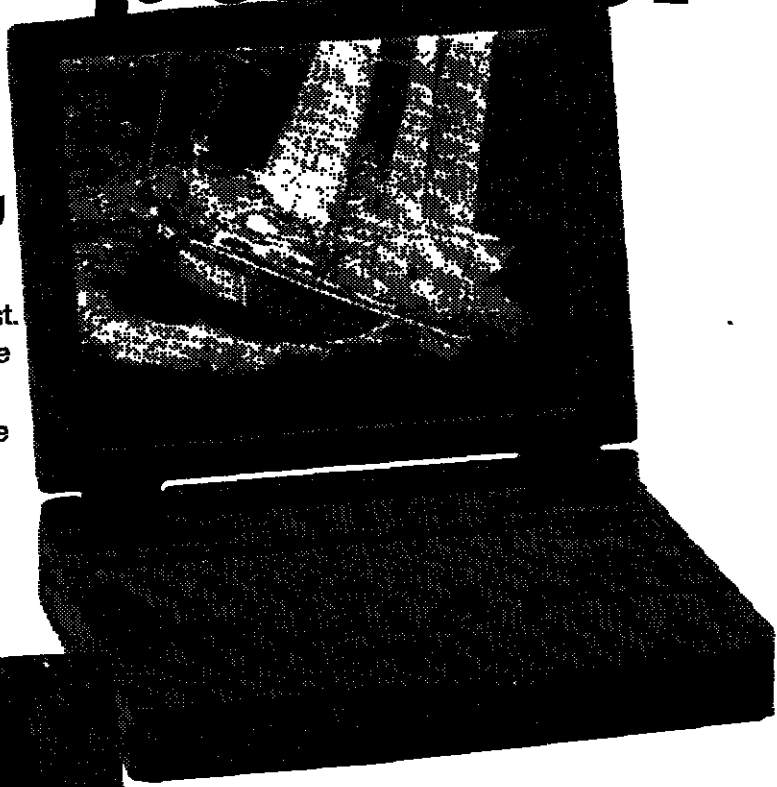
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Salary rises prove that a degree pays

Salaries on offer to graduates are rising well ahead of inflation. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, also finds that, increasingly, employers are trying to attract the best students by offering sponsorship and work experience.

Starting rates for new graduates grew by 6.4 per cent to £15,500 last year – the third year running that the increase comfortably outpaced the growth in earnings for the rest of the working population.

Recent graduates also saw their salary progression outstrip that of colleagues. Students recruited in 1996 at a median £14,774 were receiving £17,000 a year later – a rise of 15 per cent, according to the Association of Graduate Recruiters.

After three years, those taken on in 1994 for £13,500 now earn £21,000 – a massive 56 per cent increase. Following the introduction of student loans and the extension of tuition fees to full-time undergraduates, potential recruits to companies are particularly keen to enjoy rapid increases early on in their careers.

However, money was by no means everything, the association argues in its latest annual survey. The quality of training on offer, the variety of work, long-term prospects and access to professional accreditation are more important in keeping recruits than salary, it contends. Once young people are recruited, they tend to stay put.

Some 95 per cent stay with their first-time employers for a year, while 7 out of 10 graduates taken on in 1994 were still with the same organisation three years later.

Members of AGC – mostly large and medium-sized organisations – have an increasing appetite for graduates. Having increased their intake by 13 per cent last year, members calculate they will need 18.5 per cent more in 1998.

Employers, however, predict a more modest increase in starting salaries this year of around 3.2 per cent to £16,000 – a prophecy which might have more to do with wishful thinking than scientific prediction.

More than half of the 264 respondents reported that they were unable to fill all the vacancies – although the shortfall was said not to be severe. The consensus view was that while there was invariably a large pool of applicants for jobs, it was difficult to identify the high calibre candidates.

There were complaints about the "skill mix" from those holding degrees in scientific and technical disciplines. Although academic competence was not doubted, there was concern over the lack of "interpersonal skills and commercial awareness".

Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, emphasises that a degree is worthwhile. "The message from this survey is that, even with the projected financial implications for students, university education is potentially a very good investment, particularly if they acquire some work experience as well as a good degree."

GRADUATE STARTING SALARIES

1996 (£)	1997 (£)	Change (%)
18,000	19,225	6.8
16,000	16,850	5.3
14,575	15,500	6.4
13,902	14,713	5.8
13,000	14,000	7.7

Figures exclude London allowances

DAILY POEM

Risks

By Fleur Adcock

When we heard the results of our tests
we felt rather snug (if worried):
we said to each other loudly in public
"Well, that's it for space-travel;
we mustn't go up there again.
We can't afford to be bombarded
with any more radiation, damnit!"

No more risks: that was the policy.
In which case what are we doing here
scrambling along this rocky gorge
with hardly a finger-hold to bless us,
and the bridge down, and a train coming,
and the river full of crocodiles?
(I think I invented the crocodiles.)

Our Daily Poems until Monday 19 January (when the winner will be announced) come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for the 1997 T S Eliot Prize, presented by the Poetry Book Society. All the authors will take part in a reading on Sunday 18 January at 7.30pm at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (box office: 0171-359 4404). This poem comes from *Looking Back* (OUP, £6.99). © Fleur Adcock.

11/PREDICTIONS

THE INDEPENDENT
TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 1998
11

Expect the unexpected – the safest bet of all

It is fashionable at this time of year to predict events in the months to come. But even the most respected analysts are likely to get things wrong.

It is probably best to start with a reminder of the most spectacularly impressive performer in *The Independent's* stock market tips for the past 12 months: three-year-old Amber Stevenson, who, with the judicious use of a pin, put the performance of the panel of invited experts to shame.

In politics, the story is often the same. Over the years, the most dramatic events have rarely been predicted. The small handful of observers who predicted the fall of the Shah of Iran were dismissed as lunatics, especially when they also suggested that the little-known cleric Ayatollah Khomeini might be his successor. In January 1989, leading analysts famously suggested that the prospects for substantial change in eastern Europe were slim. By the end of the year,

BY STEVE
CRAWSHAW

the Berlin Wall was down, and Communist regimes had collapsed across the region.

As it happened, *The Independent* got it sort-of-right on that occasion, suggesting in a special report in January that goalposts were on the move across the region. Most events come almost out of the blue, however, such as the demonstrations and slaughter in Tiananmen Square in 1989, or Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, followed by the Gulf war.

There are some mistakes that become familiar, over the years. Everybody makes them, in turn. Living in Germany at the time of the last federal elections, I held out for what seemed like a long time against the conventional wisdom of the German press, which insisted Helmut Kohl would soon be gone. I had, after all, lived through the "John Major, the man who hasn't a hope" campaign of 1992. Eventually, I too, wrote my political obituary which confidently buried Mr Kohl. Shortly afterwards, the tide began to turn. And, come October 1994, Mr Kohl, the only man in the chan-



Feeling groovy: Despite his unorthodox campaigning style, Boris Yeltsin has confounded the pundits time and again

Viktor Korotayev/Reuters

cellor's office who had never doubted his own victory, cruised back to power.

Four years later, the same pattern has been repeated. For the entire German press, it was time for *Kanzlerdämmerung* "twilight of the Chancellor", in the headline writers' phrase. Now, as the election later this year draws closer, the commentators have again begun to accept the likelihood of yet another victory by the Great Survivor. He might still lose; but don't bet on it.

Boris Yeltsin is another man whose political death has been predicted so many times that even the most confident obituary writers have turned shy. As the first part of the BBC's *Tsar Boris: The Yeltsin Years* dramatically showed last weekend, this man

is a survivor against all odds. In 1993, a colleague in Moscow was astonished at my rashness in betting that President Yeltsin would survive in power until the end of the year. Three years later, I joined the ranks of those who believed he was now mortally wounded. And then, a few months later, Mr Yeltsin came bouncing back centre-stage, as though he had never been away. One day – it is a fact of life – he will go. Even then, however, he will probably take us by surprise.

Conflicts, too, erupt and vanish in an unpredictable fashion. It was possible in general terms to predict the Yugoslav wars (Misha Glenny, then BBC correspondent, was rebuked by his employers for

scaremongering when he predicted bloodshed). But it is usually difficult to guess which conflict will erupt, and which will continue to simmer without an explosion.

When things in Northern Ireland have looked most optimistic, hopes have promptly collapsed. Equally, when the situation has looked most bleak, it has sometimes proved that this is the moment when things are beginning to get better. In the Middle East, the same agnosticism may be appropriate. Everything seems to indicate that the prospects for the peace process will spiral downwards. But then, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin came at a time when there was greater optimism than ever before. It is at least theoretically possible that the time

of greatest pessimism may also be the time when the political market begins to turn.

The chaos theory applies to nothing more than to politics. A single event – a death, an accident, a suppressed demonstration – can have dramatic knock-on effects elsewhere. All sorts of surprises can occur. In Cuba, Fidel Castro will die one day; what then? Will the regime survive his death? In North Korea, the economic and political pressures continue to build: when and how will they finally explode? In Nigeria, the regime shows no sign of heading for democracy – what changes will come? In Russia, will Mr Yeltsin's eventual successor be a democrat or a nationalist? We know that there will be change. But we cannot know when or how.

Here is the news (maybe)

Big news usually comes as a bolt from the blue. But here are some points to watch, where you can at least decide whether your favourite commentator has got things right or embarrassingly wrong.

● If Helmut Kohl wins the federal elections in September, he will become the longest-serving Chancellor in German history.

He has been written off again and again. Current opinion polls suggest that 70 per cent of Germans think now is the time for a change. But he has faced worse problems than that before – and come out a winner on election day.

● In the Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government could collapse as his coalition unravels and Yasser Arafat may become too ill to lead the Palestinian Authority.

Barely two years ago, there were high hopes of the peace process, as negotiated by Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin before his assassination. Now, hopes are few. Pessimists have the upper hand.

● The so-called "Tiger" economies of Asia enter 1998 after their most dramatic and turbulent year ever.

The markets that were supposed to expand for all eternity have suddenly gone into an astonishing tailspin. The IMF may not have seen the last of the currency crises, as speculators continue to test the underlying strengths of east Asia's economies.

● When Boris Yeltsin gets a cold (or seems to be suffering from an over-long hangover), the news agencies put out bulletins marked "urgent", and the markets go into turmoil, because of the fears associated with his demise.

But economics, not politics, could also make the headlines in Russia in 1998. With the rouble re-denominated, a more efficient tax-collection system, and more deregulation, Yeltsin may be laying foundations for himself or his chosen successor to win the presidential elections of 2000, if he survives that long.

— Gidon Freeman

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Italy in Euro row over refugees

Ever since boatloads of Kurds from Turkey began to wash up on the shores of southern Italy in the week after Christmas, Europe has been facing its immigration problem from hell. So far, about 1,200 of them have arrived - for the most part in rickety ships setting sail from Istanbul - and up to several thousand more are expected in the next few days.

Although much of the European Union is now supposed to be practising a common immigration policy, the influx has provoked a bitter row between Italy, which is offering the Kurds temporary asylum, and Germany, where many of them are probably heading.

The crisis has done little for relations between Europe and Turkey, which has done its best for the last 13 years to keep the repression of its Kurdish minority within its own borders, and it has provided a golden opportunity for various mafia groups, who are making the most of the opportunity to establish new arms and drugs smuggling routes.

The immediate cause of the influx is Italy's recent admission to the Schengen group, by which eight European Union countries

practise an open-border policy among themselves, along with what are supposed to be tighter immigration controls on outsiders. For years, Italy was denied full membership of the Schengen group because of fears about its porous coastline - some 8,000km - and because of its immigration policies which give illegal immigrants every opportunity to enter the country and then vanish without trace.

Under current legislation, which is under review, immigrants declared illegal are given 15 days to leave the country - plenty of time to head northwards to France or Germany. That helps to explain why Manfred Kanther, Germany's Interior Minister, is accusing the Italians of irresponsibility by letting the new Kurdish arrivals in.

The Italians maintain they are screening the Kurds to separate genuine refugees, which it says it welcomes "with open arms", from undesirables. Both countries, meanwhile, are coming under heavy pressure from Ankara not to recognise any of the immigrants as refugees, arguing that there is no problem with the Kurdish minority that need concern any country.

— Andrew Gumbel, Rome

World balloon attempt fails Netanyahu survives vote

Steve Fossett's fourth attempt to pilot a balloon non-stop around the world ended on the edge of the Black Sea yesterday, stymied by low winds, low fuel, and equipment problems that left him shivering in his cockpit.

After flying about one-third of the way on his trip, which began in St Louis last Wednesday, the millionaire commodities trader landed smoothly about 50 miles north of Krasnodar, in Russia.

— AP, St Louis

Israel's embattled Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, last night survived his first parliamentary test since the resignation of his foreign minister, David Levy, at the weekend. The 1998 budget passed by a comfortable 58-52.

Mr Levy sealed his departure by voting with the opposition. Mr Netanyahu says he is determined to serve out his full term until November 2000. Few believe he can succeed.

— Eric Silver



Police carrying away a demonstrator yesterday during a protest against a visit to Hong Kong by Yang Shangkun, former president of China, who is widely regarded as being behind the Tiananmen massacre. Photograph: Bobby Yip

Peking's tolerance tested

Protesters in Hong Kong yesterday attacked the visit of the former president of China. This time they got away with it. But Stephen Vines says the real test of how much democracy the former colony enjoys under the new order will come in six months.

The protesters were out yesterday to greet Yang Shangkun, 90-year-old former president of China, who is widely regarded in Hong Kong as one of the architects of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Mr Yang is the most senior of the retired Chinese officials who have been vis-

iting the territory. Although he no longer holds an official position in the hierarchy, he is still an influential figure.

As is becoming customary, the Hong Kong authorities were secretive about his itinerary and deployed large numbers of police to provide security. However, demonstrators from the anarchist-inclined 5 April Action Group discovered that he was having lunch with the Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, at the former Governor's residence, and staged a sit-in outside its gates.

They called for Mr Yang to take responsibility for the massacre and demanded he should go home. In theory, demands of this kind could be regarded as subversion under Hong Kong's new mini-constitution, called the Basic Law, although what counts as subversion has

yet to be defined. The police removed the protesters on grounds of obstruction, insisting their removal had nothing to do with the nature of the demonstration. No one was arrested. Nor were any of those taking part in a subsequent demonstration demanding the release of political prisoners in China. Such demonstrations on the mainland meet an instant response and might end in prison sentences for those involved, but Mr Tung has said demonstrations "are part of Hong Kong life". It is questionable how much longer they will remain so. New public order laws place greater restrictions on demonstrations and the ability of organisers to stage them. The biggest test will come in June, when Hong Kong democracy activists stage the annual Tiananmen Square commemoration rally.

Lithuanians elect 'foreign' president

Voters in Lithuania have chosen an elderly American citizen for their president in preference to a local politician nearly half his age.

Final results published yesterday gave victory by the narrowest of margins to Valdas Adamkus, 72, who fled from his annexed Baltic homeland in 1944 and did not return permanently until last year when independence was re-established.

The election of Mr Adamkus, which Russian television claimed was the first case of a foreigner becoming the president of any country, came as a surprise, as he had trailed far behind his opponent, prosecutor-general Arturas Paulauskas, 44, is respected because of his commitment to fighting organised crime, although some are suspicious of him because of his Communist past.

But after the father of Lithuanian independence, Vytautas Landsbergis, threw his weight behind the émigré, vot-

ers turned to Mr Adamkus, an ecologist who speaks Lithuanian with a heavy accent. He won 49.9 per cent of the vote compared with 49.3 per cent for Mr Paulauskas.

Mr Adamkus was granted Lithuanian citizenship in 1992 but did not give up his US passport. He said Russia would remain "our main partner in the east, but Lithuania will continue to seek membership in the European Union and Nato". Moscow opposes Nato membership for the Baltic states, with whom the Kremlin has slowly built up a new relationship since they regained their independence in 1991.

"Perhaps Lithuanians think an American president will be more likely to take them into Nato," said Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Russian parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, "but rather I hope the election of an American will be a compensation for them for not entering Nato."

— Helen Womack, Moscow

Moi calls for cash as he starts fifth presidential term

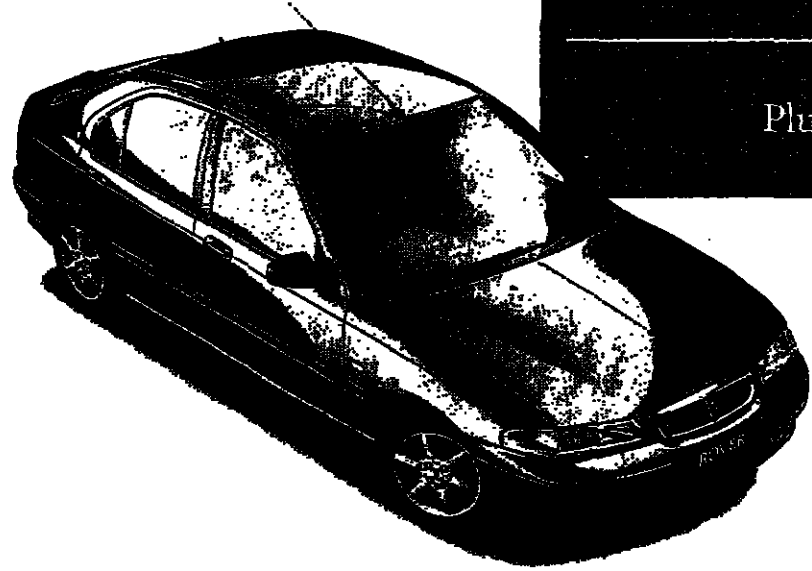
Daniel arap Moi was sworn in as president of Kenya for the fifth time yesterday, with all the pomp due to a man who for the second time in five years has thoroughly outwitted his enemies.

The cockerel symbol of Mr Moi's Kenyan African National Union party flew in the breeze as Chief Justice Zachariah Chesoni administered the oath on Uhuru Park's reviewing stand, watched by 20,000 loyalists. Flanked on the podium by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Mr Moi stiffly acknowledged his people's salutes with his sceptre-like white rod. He called for national uni-

ty. This would be his final term of office, he reminded Kenyans, and he wanted to leave office with the country's deep tribal divisions healed.

It was, he said, his intention to use his final administration to improve infrastructure, health care, education, governance and employment, while fighting poverty and corruption. With the International Monetary Fund holding back \$205m in aid due to concern over his record on these issues, Mr Moi also had a pointed message to the international donors - "the diplomatic community needs to know that for democracy to survive it needs economic support".

— Ed O'Loughlin, Nairobi



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Starter for 10:

1 Cannabis is derived from:
a An animal; b A mineral;
c A bushy plant. *Cannabis sativa*, found wild in many parts of the world and easily cultivated in Britain

Well done, Keeble, your questions on Cannabis start now:

2 The most powerful psychoactive ingredient is:
a The tetrahydrocannabinols;
b Cannabis sulphate; c Louise Botting

3 Hashish is:
a The commonest form of cannabis in the UK; b Resin scraped or rubbed from the plant and compressed into blocks; c easily mistaken for a bogey

4 Marihuana is:
a Spelt incorrectly; b Stronger than resin but not as strong as dubin; c Dried plant material

5 Sinsemilla is:
a Derived from resin containing roots; b Derived from the flowering tops of unfertilised female plants; c Particularly strong

6 Cannabis can be:
a Smoked, drunk or eaten; b Injected; c Worn

7 Cannabis was first documented as a herbal remedy in:
a Luke 4 vs 7; b A Chinese pharmacy text in the first century AD; c Boots, Lowestoft, 1906

8 Cannabis:
a Is available on an NHS prescription for treating certain conditions (eg strabismic nystagmus); b Was available on prescription until 1973; c Has never been prescribable on the NHS

9 The non-medical use of cannabis in Britain was prohibited:
a In 1902 after the Boer War; b In 1928 after Egyptian objections at an interna-

tional opiate conference; c In 1958 by Harold Macmillan

10 In the UK, it is legal to cultivate cannabis:
a Never; b For decoration only; c If you have a Home Office licence

11 Your chances of getting a Home Office licence from Jack Straw are:
a Zero; b Less than zero; c Less than mine, because I'm a doctor and I can cultivate it for research purposes

12 Cannabis usage is greater than the national average by those who:
a Have experienced full-time further education; b Have ovaries; c Attend Age Concern luncheon clubs

13 Skunk weed is:
a Half cannabis, half dandelion; b A particularly strong home variety, grown from imported seeds; c Something I've made up to catch you out

14 If you're a quarter-of-an-ounce-of-resin-a-day person, you're:
a All over the place; b A sissy; c On about a joint an hour round the clock

15 While intoxicated, a user may do less well on tasks requiring:
a Short-term memory; b Concentration; c Manual dexterity

16 The risk of fatal overdose is:
a Virtually nil; b Between 1 and 2 per cent; c 5 per cent

17 Long-term use of cannabis has been linked with:
a Nothing definite; b Lung cancer; c BSE

18 At street level, if you paid £50 an ounce for herbal and £14.25 a quarter of an ounce for resin, you'd be:
a Getting it at retail prices; b Ripped off; c Very careful

19 What is a Camberwell carrot?

20 Who said, "Today there are those who see in society's attitude to drug taking the opportunity for questioning traditional values and social judgements of all kinds... This seems to be the real challenge of soft drugs, and it is growing... It is time to make clear that teenage drug taking is ill-advised, if not dangerous to personality and health":
a Jack Straw; b Michael Howard; c Alice Bacon, Home Office Minister 1967

Correct answers:
1c, 2a, 3abc, 4c, 5bc, 6ac, 7b, 8b, 9b, 10c, 11bc, 12a, 13b, 14ac, 15abc, 16a, 17a, 18ac, 19 a 12-skin amalgamation of a roller and an ice-cream cone stuffed with dope, invented by Danny from Withnail and I, 20c

The all-consuming chromosome

Christina Corrigan died last November of heart failure. She was aged 13 and weighed over 48 stone. Her mother, Marlene, is now on trial in California for child abuse and a key issue in the case is whether she was to blame for her daughter's death. But could Christina have been suffering from a rare genetic disorder, asks Jeremy Laurance.

The story is both tragic and surreal. To see your teenage daughter balloon to six hundredweight, a bloated blob of flesh so heavy she could not move from her bed, is possibly a parent's worst nightmare. The stretcher used to remove Christina's corpse broke and it took four firemen and two deputy coroners to lift her. She was unwashed and covered in bed sores and fungal growths. She had been unable even to leave herself off the sofa to get to the bathroom.

How is it possible for a person - a child - to consume so many calories? Marlene Corrigan's lawyers believe they have the answer. They are claiming that her daughter was suffering from Prader-Willi syndrome, a rare condition whose main symptoms are an uncontrollable appetite and a tendency to temper tantrums. Sufferers also commonly have weak muscles, under-developed genitals, and sometimes facial characteristics including almond eyes and a fish-shaped mouth, and a low IQ.

Rosemary Johnson, spokeswoman for the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association in the UK, said: "My first thought when I read about this case was that she could be a Prader-Willi. As well as her obesity she apparently could be quite bloody minded - that also fits in. If she was obstinate and narrow-minded, she could have made life hell for her mother."

The most difficult aspect of the syndrome, for parents and sufferers alike, is the obsession with eating. Sufferers have been known to eat 4,000 calories in two hours (a day and a half's meals for an average person). They will steal food from the kitchen and squirrel it away for snacks later. They will scavenge in rubbish bins and have been known to eat wallpaper, bedding, even polish. One died after eating large quantities of jam and salt.

What makes people eat without stopping? Christina Corrigan was already so heavy at the age of nine, when she last saw a doctor, that she had difficulty walking the short distance from her home in Martinez, California, to school. She weighed 17 stone and her doctor said she should eat less and exercise more.

Four years later her weight



Christina Corrigan: she may have had Prader-Willi syndrome, whose main symptoms are an uncontrollable appetite and a tendency to tantrums

had almost tripled. She spent her last months in front of the television, unable to leave the family room. She could find no clothes to fit and wore either a kaftan crocheted by her mother or lay naked under a blanket.

What Prader-Willi suffers lack is the sense of fullness that the rest of us get after eating a good meal. They only feel full when there is, literally, no more room. For most people the sense of fullness comes long before, through a complex mechanism of chemical messengers travelling between gut and brain. Investigation of the breakdown of this mechanism in Prader-Willi patients could one day yield clues to the western world's great obsession: the control of eating.

Prader-Willi syndrome was first spotted in the UK 35 years ago by Dr Bernard Laurence (my father, as it happens) but is named after the two Swiss doctors who had earlier described it in a German medical journal. It is caused by a defect on chromosome 15 which is now detectable in almost all cases by a blood test. The defect is believed to occur at or near conception, but because those affected do not develop sexually, they cannot pass it on.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 people are thought to have the syndrome in the UK and there is no cure. Although it is now better understood, it remains a grim diagnosis. Parents must rely on tough management which often means locking kitchen cupboards and the fridge and exerting tight control over diet. Early diagnosis so that the strict dietary regime can be imposed from the start, before weight begins to rise, improves the long-term prospects.

Christina Corrigan was an apparently normal 7lb 11oz baby but by the time she was three her weight had soared off the charts to 60lbs and at five it was up to eight stone. Hospital tests for diabetes and thyroid function failed to disclose any problem and from the age of eight she apparently gave up on dieting, refusing to follow her mother's strictures or join her on cabbage soup diets.

From the age of 11 she refused to go to school because of taunts about her weight. Eventually she refused to leave the house. Mrs Corrigan said: "How could I get her out of the house? I couldn't pick her up and carry her. Everything was because of her weight."

The desperate circumstances of Christina Corrigan's short life and early death demonstrate how the loss of appetite control can kill. In Britain in the mid-1980s, a 25-year-old man with Prader-Willi syndrome died weighing 46 stone. *The Sun* reported that a JCB digger was required at his funeral to lift the coffin.

Mrs Johnson, whose 17-year-old son, Matthew, is a sufferer, said: "At that time, we all thought that is how our children would end up. Now we know it isn't so and it is important not to be too depressing for parents whose children are newly diagnosed. There is reason to assume they may not stay delicately thin but there is no reason why they should become grossly bloated and obese, with proper management."

Matthew, who was diagnosed at six months, is a normal weight for his height of 5ft but this has only been achieved as a result of the iron discipline imposed by his mother. "He has no choices. What he gets is what he eats," she says.

He is now away at college but the canteen is under strict instructions to take his order the day before and serve him fixed portions. He is not free to pick and choose as the other students are.

"It is much more difficult when they grow up and leave home. Living independently is not a safe option for Prader-

Willi sufferers because of the emotional and control issues."

A simple blood test could have established whether Christina Corrigan was a Prader-Willi sufferer but for the last four years of her life she had no medical attention, Mrs Johnson said: "There may have been other causes for her condition. But I cannot understand why her mother didn't involve someone else. Where were the teachers and social workers? Why didn't someone step in and help?"

The Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (UK) can be contacted at 2, Wheatshaf Close, Horsell, Woking, Surrey GU24 4BP. Tel: 01483 724784

VITAL SIGNS

Hope for back pain sufferers who fear their condition will worsen as they grow older comes from the Pain Research Institute, the Liverpool-based charity. Evidence shows that most will either stay the same or improve with time and their chances of improving are higher if they practise pain management techniques. These are based on gentle exercise and relaxation combined with pain control.

According to Dr Chris Wells, of the institute, those who suffer the least are the ones who exercise regularly making an effort to change their outlook and ignore the pain as much as possible. Pain control techniques and relaxation can be just as effective as pain killers in relieving the agony of a bad back. "Coping with back pain", an audio tape produced by the Pain Research Institute (£13.99 inc p&p), is available from Talking Life, PO Box 1, Wimal 147 7DD or tel: 0151 632 0662

A dying patient needs different care from one who is terminally ill. The last days of life are very important, with profound psychological as well as medical consequences. A new guide from the National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services says the care needed when death is imminent is so distinct from the previous palliative care that it resembles a gear change.

The guide warns that dying patients tolerate symptoms very poorly because of their weak-

ness and debility and that their intensity can escalate rapidly to very severe distress if they are not controlled. "Treatments must be prescribed and administered regularly to control existing symptoms and to prevent new ones developing, and never withheld pending the results of investigations."

The British Dental Association is urging the Government to take stronger measures to support water fluoridation after a survey of MPs showed seven out of 10 supported adding fluoride to water supplies to prevent tooth decay. The survey follows recent figures showing decay was much more common in five-year-olds in non-fluoridated areas than in fluoridated ones.

The association says urgent action is necessary to make water suppliers comply with requests from health authorities. "Health Authorities and the BDA believe that water suppliers are misinterpreting the act and frustrating Parliament's original intention. Water fluoridation is the single most effective public health measure which health authorities can use to reduce tooth decay."

Jeremy Laurance

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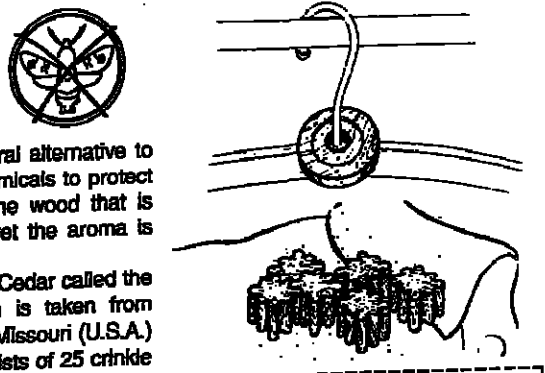
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Shedding a little light on landscape in the dark time of the year

A collection of Turner watercolours can be seen in Edinburgh, for one month only, at the start of every year. Something to do with topography, suspects Richard Ingleby.

The National Gallery of Scotland's January exhibition of Turner watercolours has long been an annual institution, as much a part of the new year in Edinburgh as is a hangover from Hogmanay. There are 38 of them, bequeathed to the Scottish nation in 1900 by the collector Henry Vaughan with the strict stipulation that they only be shown in the first month of the year "when the light is at its weakest and least destructive".

I'm not sure if Vaughan, a Londoner whose family fortune came from making hats, ever visited Scotland's capital, but I suspect that he didn't. Otherwise he would have known that his precious watercolours would have been perfectly safe for a lot longer than he specified – some days in Edinburgh it doesn't get light at all, save for a brief glimmer of dawn at around lunchtime. In recent times this has all become an irrelevance anyway since the pictures are shown in a dimly lit basement without any hint of

natural light. The conditions would be much the same in July, but it is to the gallery's credit, in these days of disrespect for donor's wishes, that they have upheld the terms of Vaughan's bequest for over 90 years. Inevitably these circumstances have given this annual exhibition an air of importance that it wouldn't otherwise have. It's not that the pictures aren't any good – just that the sense of occasion which surrounds their showing has given them a treasured quality that has little to do with the work itself.

The watercolours given to Edinburgh were not the sum of Henry Vaughan's collection. He also owned drawings by Michelangelo and Raphael, as well as Constable's *Haywain* and numerous other Turners which are now in the National Gallery of Ireland. On the evidence here, however, he had rather conservative taste. Broadly speaking, these 38 watercolours span the whole of Turner's career and there are plenty of fine examples, but Vaughan's leaning was more towards the topographical sketches made for the publishing projects that were the bread and butter of Turner's life than to the late great works on which rest his place as the founding father of modern art.

The Edinburgh exhibition

begins with a group of grey-blue views of English towns which look more like the work of Girtin than Turner, and may well be. These belong to the batch of works described as "the Mouru school", a reference to Dr Mouru's evening academy for promising young painters in watercolour, a class that included Cotman and De Wint alongside Girtin and Turner, and whose members' unsigned offerings all look pretty much the same. They are unremarkable pictures, but set a tentative topographical tone for what follows.

The best of the works on show here are those where Turner allowed himself to step outside the requirements of illustration and into the realms of the sublime, taking landscape to the edge of abstraction. One of the most effective of all is a tiny watercolour of Loch Coruisk painted on a trip to Skye in 1831. Two tiny figures (including Turner himself, perhaps, as one of them appears to be sketching) are perched on a rock above the loch; all around them a swirling vortex of hill and sky seems set to swallow them up. At a glance, it is a little hard to read but, for all his illustrative skills, Turner's genius was never in the detail. It is an image filled with power and presence: the scene seems



A journey to the edge: Turner's evocative 'Venice from the Laguna', painted in 1840, during the artist's last trip there

Henry Vaughan Bequest

enormous, but it is painted on a piece of paper no bigger than a postcard.

Looking at these watercolours, particularly at a view of Durham Cathedral, one could be forgiven for thinking that the man so often billed as our nation's greatest painter couldn't paint people. Actually he couldn't, or at least not very

well, but in his more successful works (such as *Loch Coruisk*) it doesn't matter. The people aren't the point. If they are there at all, it is just to give a sense of scale or increase the drama – people, his pictures tell us, are small, nature is very, very big.

There's not enough of this sort of thing in the Vaughan Bequest for my liking, not enough

of Turner the explorer and experimenter with colour and light, above all light. None the less, in his quest for a complete collection Vaughan gathered some marvellous things, including a representative group of pictures from Turner's three Venetian tours. The greatest of these is not one of his depictions of familiar architectural sights,

grand though these may be, or the daringly empty *Sun of Venice*, in which the white of the page is left to do the work of both sea and sky, but a little sketch of *Venice from the Laguna*, dating from his last trip there in 1840. In this the artist looks the other way, not to the glories of Venice, but out to a green blue sea and a smudge of

sooty smoke from a passing steamer. As ever, Turner was at his most masterful, most evocative, when he took himself to the edge. It's in works like this that the future of modern art lay. 'Turner Watercolours: The Vaughan Bequest' is at the National Gallery of Scotland, the Mound, Edinburgh (0131-624 6200) to 31 January.

Forget icebergs, let his escalator art take you for a ride



Mind the gap: Lawrence Weiner, right, and his latest invisible installation, 'Towards Motion', amid the Christmas decorations at Canary Wharf

Photo: Hugo Glendinning

Lawrence Weiner's art is not exactly in your face. In fact, you may not notice it at all, even if you look at it. Judith Palmer catches up with the elusive US conceptualist at the site of his latest creation, in an East London shopping centre.

As I was going up the stairs, I met some art that wasn't there. It wasn't there again today ... and will continue not to be there until the end of February. "Why take up space when it's not necessary?" shrugs artist Lawrence Weiner, as I scan Canary Wharf in search of his latest installation, *Towards Motion*.

One of the granddaddies of conceptual art, New Yorker Lawrence Weiner has been designing non-existent sculptures for over 30 years. What's more, for every one of those years, the world's most prestigious art institutions have continued to commission him to do it, from Documenta and the Whitney to the new Guggenheim in Bilbao.

Closer inspection of the escalators in between the Docklands Light Railway and the Canary Wharf Tower does in fact reveal the scantiest wee suggestion of an artwork. There, against the glass-sided up- and down-escalator panels, thinly traced out in blue-edged transparent type, are the words "One for the money ... Two for the show ... Three to get ready ... And four to go ()".

For the most part, the office-workers glide between floors oblivious of Weiner's work, but every once in a while, there's a glimmer of a double-take, as an unduly perceptive punter notices the slight modification to his or her habitual surroundings. "What goes in the brackets, then?" asks a maintenance man. "You," Weiner replies triumphantly – "that's where you place yourself." Maintenance man wanders off perplexed.

Filling in the gaps yourself is what Weiner's work is all about. The phrases he chooses to display are all deliberately indeterminate but vaguely suggestive. One "what" for the money? Two "what" for the show? Each viewer will read the phrases differently – depending whether they are on their way to or from work; or perhaps, on how much they like their jobs and how tasty the "to go" option is. Perhaps it's even sending out a subliminal message for people to hand in their notice?

"Being with this for two months will give the people here the opportunity to relate this into their lives," Weiner whis-

pers conspiratorially into his gingers. "If it takes, it will give them something to help understand their relation to the world," he adds. "And that is all that art is supposed to be about."

Working out what "art is supposed to be about" is Weiner's favourite occupation. Aesthetics don't come into it. "You make art because you're dissatisfied with the configuration of the world as it's presented," he insists.

Weiner's earliest works, back in 1960, tried to alter the configuration of the world rather literally, using truckloads of explosives to blast huge craters in fields across California. He soon gave up on the macho pyrotechnics, however, deciding to change the world by more discreet means.

He formulated a theory, which he has stuck to ever since, that building his sculptures was a mere optional extra. ("1. The artist may construct the work. 2. The work may be fabricated. 3. The work need not be built.")

Instead of laying physical things down on a gallery floor, Weiner would now just paint a no-nonsense phrase on a gallery wall, such as "many coloured objects placed side by side to form a row of many coloured objects".

"I feel it can transcend cultures," he explains, "because, no matter what materials I choose – even the simplest many-coloured objects – they are going to take on a different cultural metaphor in each different place. I would prefer that a work of mine is not exotic. In Japan they would think of other configurations of many-coloured objects. It's reinvented by each person who comes to it."

"Why give them your metaphor?" Weiner asks, in low wide vowels. "Why not give them the phenomena of the materials together and let them find the metaphor that they need – or don't need – because all art cannot be for everybody."

The phrase "smashed to pieces in the still of the night" would have set off different resonances, he points out, when he painted it on the side of a bunker in Vienna, than it would have done if it had been laid out in pebbles on a South Sea beach. One environment might, after all, be punctuated by the sound of breaking bottles, the other by the sound of falling coconuts.

"It intrigues me that a sound in the day is so different from a sound in the night, when it's supposed to be the same material," he says. "At 2 o'clock in the morning, hearing the same three tons of steel falling goes

from being an annoyance to a complete catastrophe."

Weiner got used to the sound of lumps of steel crashing around during his pre-art career as a dockworker. The son of second-generation working-class Russian immigrants from the South Bronx, he started working on the docks at the age of 12, got involved as a union organiser, and then perfected the art of watching his back. "A baling hook in the back was the approved way of getting rid of lefty pinko faggots," he remembers matter-of-factly.

At the same time, young Weiner was studying, discovering Camus and Sartre at the Public Library, and noticing that the Museum of Modern Art provided "a better quality of girl to flirt with". Aged 16, he started dropping by the Cedar Bar to listen to the conversations of the artists who hung out there. "As a young person, I was terribly impressed by the abstract expressionists," Weiner recalls. "They were extremely open – Kline specifically, Rothko, Newman, as well as poets like Kenneth Patchen and Gregory Corso."

Involvement in Civil Rights protests in the South led to several stints in jail, then plans to become a teacher got diverted by art, for which Weiner still feels slightly guilty.

So why a sculptor? Why not a poet, I ask? An eyebrow is raised in horror, as Weiner reaches with long, angular fingers for another treacherous Mexican Delicados cigarette.

"Poetry says the reality of the person presenting it is of a different reality to the person reading it," he asserts. "It's a belief that there's an inspiration, and I do think art is just an observation with the acquired skills of presentation. The materials I use are all accessible to all people. Poetry is about a feeling – feelings are not accessible to all people."

Although Weiner regularly shows his text-sculptures in galleries, he is happier creating public works. Already for 1998, he is working on a massive piece to be set around Paris's main ring-road, the Périphérique; and a new commission for the docks in Hull (as part of Arts Transpennine 98). "Art is something looking for its place in the world. When it ceases to look for its place and it finds its place, that work of art becomes art history," says Weiner.

"I have a liking for extremes," he admits. "The only places I'm really happy are places where there's no anecdote."

Then, as if by magic, Weiner suddenly forgets his grand mission to explain the pur-



pose of art and gets anecdotal. "I used to ride icebergs," he muses, rearranging the silver bracelets around his tattooed wrist. Come again? "You go to the north of Scandinavia, and literally, for the price of the gas or whatever, you get a helicopter to drop you off by the cable. Then you'd make a deal with some fishermen – and hope you understood them and they understood you – and a day or two later they'd pick you up. It worked fine."

Oh, no! Has he given too much away?

"I don't want people, when they look at a work of mine, to know terribly much about me," he growls mellifluously. "They don't have to. I want them to know terribly much about themselves."

'Towards Motion': at The Rotunda, Cabot Place East, Canary Wharf, London E14 to 28 Feb. 'Lawrence Weiner', a new book about the artist, will be published by Phaidon in March.

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Get back in the driving seat and change gear

How does a stress guru cope when life crashes about his ears? In day two of our series on antidotes to the anxieties of the Nineties, Ann Treneman finds out

Professor Cary Cooper may not be the only stress expert in Britain, but sometimes it feels that way. Never has someone with a title as workaday as "occupational psychologist" seemed so much in danger of becoming a guru. The man is everywhere - in the papers, on radio, on television - with an opinion on everything from Gordon Brown's fingernails to the risks of working long hours to the renewed popularity of the James William and Harry.

The one subject that Cary Cooper does not talk about very much is himself. Until now. But his new book is called *Stop the World: Finding a Way Through the Pressures of Life*, and you cannot write a book telling us how to take control of our lives without saying whether you have control of your own.

"Ooooooh," he says. "Listen to this lady." I say that as a Californian he should know all about being open and honest. He says he has lived in England since he was 24 (he is now 57) and he cringes when he goes back to Los Angeles and people insist on being loving, giving, caring, sharing. "I just want to throw up," he says in an accent so broad that he could be a tourist. "I mean I really do have trouble. I've lived here too long."

But not long enough to just say no to personal questions. The book says that the key to taking control is to know yourself. Are you an uptight Type A or a more placid Type B? What drives you? Do you see yourself as having control over events or being controlled by them? Well I'm definitely Type A," Cary Cooper says. "We are pushed, time-conscious, driven, and push ourselves to the absolute limit. But I am not a workaholic. A workaholic is addicted to work. I may be driven, but I have other parts to my life. When I go home I cut off. I'm very good at that. My home life is totally separate. I really have two worlds I live in."

All of this would be a bit more believable if I weren't sitting in Cary Cooper's home on the day before he and his wife Rachel are to fly to Los Angeles to spend Christmas with his 86-year-old mother and, incidentally, to take care of some business to do with a US academic journal. "I founded it 20 years ago and, after all that time, I thought maybe I should let go," he says. Nor is it the only

journal he works on. In addition he has written or edited some 80 books and hundreds of articles. Not to mention his rent-a-quote tendencies. Clearly this is a man who knows something about being a workaholic, even if he is not one now.

So has life ever seemed out of control? "Now I better tell you the truth. Or I'm going to get in trouble!"

He tells a story that will be familiar to many: of a young academic with ambitions and a wife and two small children. He worked long hours and, when he was asked to go to a conference here or there, he couldn't say no. The marriage faltered and he didn't know his children as well as he might. "Though I guess you don't know whether it was ambition that drove me, or if I kept travelling because my marriage wasn't so good," he says. "That's the fine line."

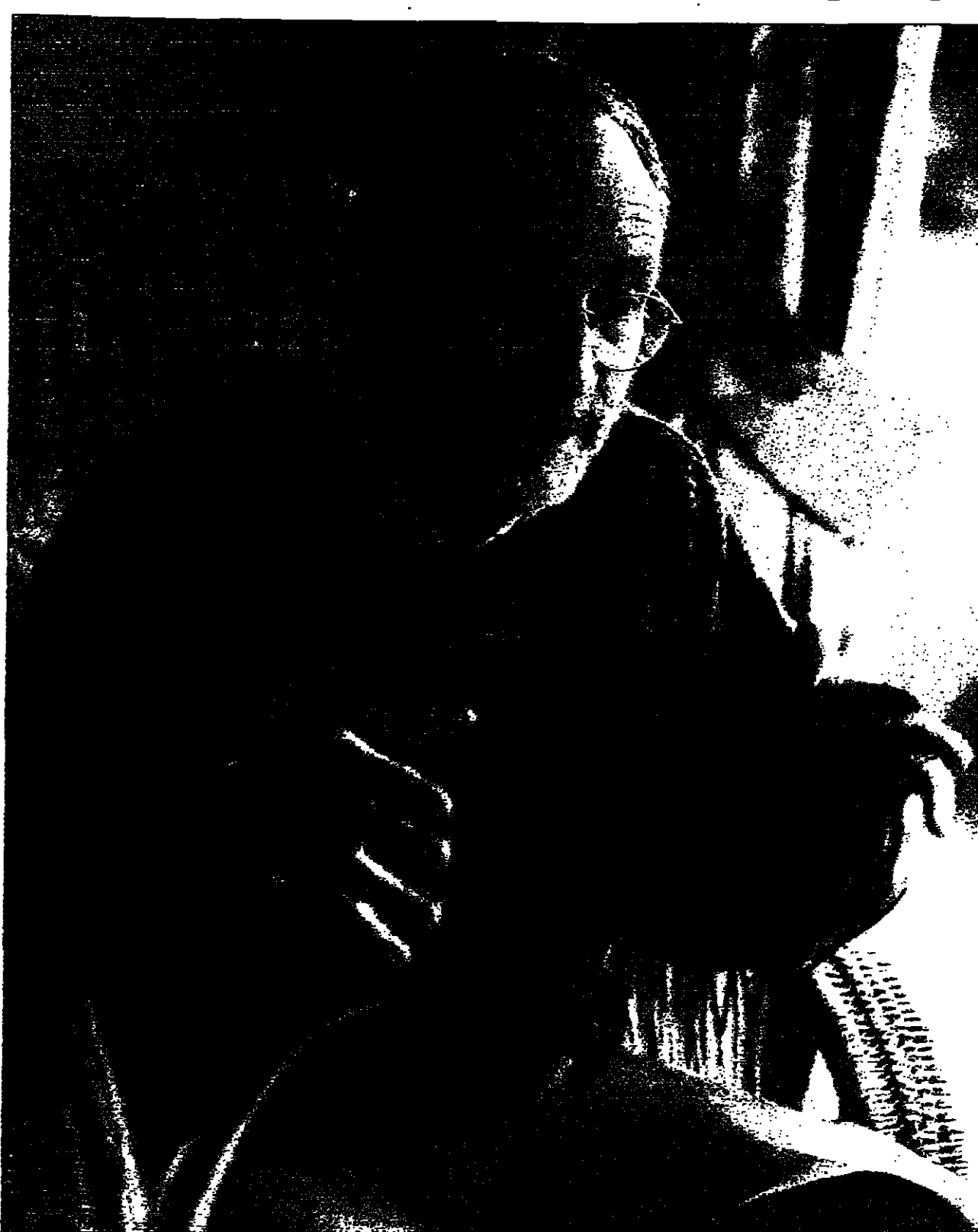
At this point the occupational psychologist in Cary Cooper cannot control himself any longer. "You know that the feeling of being out of control is probably the most significant factor in experiencing stress today. Lack of control is the big problem now," he says, waving his arms with excitement. "Society is changing so much. The nature of work is changing. There are so much more short-term contracts and part-time and freelance work. We have the highest divorce rate in Europe. There is the changing role between men and women. That is just amazing; not only are women working but they are pushing up the glass ceiling, competing with men, getting to senior levels - slowly, but they are getting there. All of this means there are certain people in society who feel they have no control. Quite a lot of men feel that now. They feel threatened. People feel job insecure. How do they get control of that?"

Indeed, but perhaps more to the point, how did Cary Cooper get control of his life when his marriage went wrong? He looks startled for a moment, and then concentrates.

"Let me see. You know how I knew I was in trouble? I got sick. I got what I think now they would call chronic fatigue syndrome. Incidentally, I've done a study on that. Anyway, how I knew that I was out of control is that I got ill, and for quite a long time. I'm talking months."

For many of those months, he just thought he was ill. "You know, being a psychologist doesn't help when you are looking at yourself," he says. "Finally I did start to wonder if there was something underlying it. I think people should do this if they get, say, persistent headaches and can't find anything organically wrong. Or lose their sense of humour, become more aggressive, start to get lots of minor illnesses. I think you ought to question what the hell is going on. Your body is a machine and like any machine, from time to time it fuses. I think my body was telling me that there were problems in my life and I had to get them sorted."

But first he had to figure out what was going on. "Number one, you need to find a friend. But it has got to be somebody who is not just a supporter or somebody who, in a California-type way, says 'Hi baby, I can help you out, come here for a cuddle.' What you need is honesty. It's got to be a friend who helps you identify how you can gain control. What options are



Professor Cary Cooper: "Number One, you need a friend"

Photograph: Tom Pilston

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open to you? Some may be wholly unpalatable." Once again the occupational psychologist takes over. Did I know that the person being bullied by his or her boss is the perfect example of someone whose life feels out of control in the Nineties? In this case too he needs to find a friend to help answer some questions. What kind of bully is the boss? Is he a psychopath with deep-rooted

TAKING CONTROL

er been to a therapist but he did go back to Los Angeles to talk to his best friend and his family doctor. "It took me a while to take a decision but that started the process." The decision was to leave his wife and young family. "It was a failure. When you get divorced, it's a failure and you better learn from it. After my marriage dissolved and then I met Rachel and got married and had kids with her, I said, that's it. I'll never do that again."

And he hasn't. "I really love my work but I don't let it dominate my life," he says. He is close to all four of his children, who range in age from 25 to 12. "Weekends are sacrosanct. I

Stress: how not to cope

People under stress usually try to escape in one way or another but sometimes the mode of escape turns out to be a prison in itself. Workaholism, drugs and alcohol are the obvious "wrong turnings" but here, from *Stop the World*, are some others:

Escapism: getting away - moving house, jobs or marriages - does not work if you don't face the real problem.

Fantasy: living life in a day-dream allows us to avoid responsibilities.

Phobias: causes great distress but can also divert from your real anxiety.

Hypochondria: gives you a lot to talk about and often

masks anxieties that may not be as acceptable to admit to.

Rationalisation: lets you tell everybody all the good reasons for what has happened - except the real one.

Competitiveness: if you take winning too seriously you can end up suffering from "achievement anxiety" where anything other than complete success is a failure.

Perfectionism: creates a vicious cycle of stress.

Romanticism and/or nostalgia: when you think the world really was (and ought to be) rose-coloured.

Martyrdom: our attempt to manipulate others while never facing why we are hurt.

leave at 5 or 5.30 every day. That is more or less a rule. That's the truth, isn't it honey?" he asks Rachel as she cruises through the lounge. She nods. "I don't work at night and never at weekends. After 5.30 is family."

At this point Cary Cooper gets locked on to one of his favourite subjects: long hours and the price we pay for it. He has even coined the latest buzzword word for it: "presentism". Does he ever have the desire to leave his coat on the chair to pretend he's still there at 7pm? "Or to send e-mails at 2am! That's the new electronic one." No, he says, he has been cured of such things once and for all.

The book has a chapter called "Wrong Turnings" which lists the ways people try to deal with stress. Workaholism is there (see panel for others). Has he taken any, new, wrong turnings since he changed his ways? "I don't smoke. I tell you something I should do more of. I'm not involved in the community enough - I'm not actively engaged."

What causes him stress? "It's not deadlines. It's not the amount of work. As a person I need to be liked and like to be liked. I guess you would get a lot of psychologists saying that," he says. We talk about a stress diary - an idea put forward in the book - where you note up-setting events. By the end of a month or so, a pattern may emerge. For some people it will be events that upset them, for others it will be people. Clearly for Professor Cooper it would be the latter.

"If I read a review of a book of mine - I shouldn't be saying this to you, should I - and it was critical of me personally rather than of the book, that would trouble me. There was a time when people would say that I couldn't be a good academic be-

cause I went on television or talked to the press. I feel very comfortable in my science now but when I was younger, that really upset me. I am a polymath. I like doing the media. So why shouldn't I do it?"

He leans forward. "You know something, Ann, I've done work on successful people. I've written books on it. Quite a lot of them look the most secure people in the world and they are not. You must ask yourself what drives somebody to continue to do that and the driving force in these people - and it's true of myself too - is basic insecurity. It's a basic feeling that I have to prove something to me. Not to you, but to me. Therefore I get hurt if somebody attacks me because I think: maybe they are right, maybe I'm not as competent as I should be." And then he sits back and smiles. There, is that too Californian?"

But then preparations for California itself beckon and there is just time to ask him if he has any New Year's resolutions. Does he want to change his Type A behaviour? He admits to still suffering from hurry-sickness and is time obsessed to the point that he will get to a station incredibly early to make sure he doesn't miss a train. No, he says, but he does have something else he wants to change. "I tell you what. I hope I do this. I hope to god I do. But then I will need to break it down into achievable bits," he mutters and then looks at me. "I'd like to do something for my community. I don't just mean giving money but time." I nod because, for a Type A, nothing is more precious than time.

Stop The World: Finding a Way Through the Pressures of Life by Cary Cooper and Murray Waits is published by Hodder and Stoughton this week at £7.99.

It is all very well being on top of things at work when everything is going well, but the real challenge comes when you meet a brick wall. How you respond is the real test of your ability to solve problems and make things happen.

Examine your wall

It is important to get a problem into perspective. There are those who insist on treating each as the worst thing that has ever happened. But the treatment that works for molehills rarely displaces a mountain. Time spent examining the problem objectively is never wasted and it is a determining characteristic of those enviable folk who have both a sense of proportion and real control over their lives.

Is it really immovable? On first sight the problem may seem too much to cope with. But if you take time to examine it, you often find it is less serious than you thought. Clever deployment of the resources at your disposal and focused teamworking can make all the difference.

Who put it there? Who or what has caused the problem? Get them on your side. After all, who better to solve it than the person who created it?

Why is it there? The answer may not be to you're liking, especially if you are worse off as a result, but understanding this can help you to come up with an alternative which meets the constructor's needs without thwarting your ambitions. Occasionally, you might even be convinced of the wall's value and learn to live with it (see below).

Is it really intractable? Frequently the solution to a problem involves rising above it and thinking at a higher level. It may not be as tough as you originally thought.

Is there really no way around? People are sometimes numbed by the dimensions of the difficulty. A glance to the left or the right would reveal that what they are looking at is not a wall at all, but a tower! And bingo!, the solution is to hand.

Does the problem really exist? Are you being overwhelmed by something which exists solely in your head. Often it is a question of personal history. In this kind of situation, you have always given up, so why bother to check what lies round the corner? Or perhaps you are reacting to gossip. Whatever it is, you fail to make the necessary check. More on this later.

Develop your approach

Think of occasions when you have dealt well with a difficult issue. Scan this list and assess which of the techniques you have used:

- Ensure that you have the right skills and can apply them effectively in order to help you overcome the problem.
- Put company politics to work, persuade others of your argument and carefully manipulate the situation so that others may not even realise that it is happening.
- Confront the issue, head on, perhaps in an explosive manner, to clear the air and remove the problem.
- Understand the complexity of the matter, work out how to unravel it and implement the solution methodically.
- Change direction so that you are not prevented from achieving your goals. It may be just a question of changing tack.
- Learn to love it: you have worked hard to understand the situation and are learning to make the best of it.

It may be that your successful strategy was a combination of these tactics. The trick is to choose the right one and exercise it at the appropriate time. And in order to do that, it is important to understand the nature of the brick wall, where it has come from and why it has come about.

External issues

These may be caused by the world around you - a change in company policy or an organisational culture at odds with your values; or individuals whose view of you does not tally with your own. This does not imply that your own contribution has been negligible, but external forces are involved. Asking for advice and learning from your experiences can help you to break through barriers and work towards an effective solution. But beware, past experience can also be an obstacle to creative thinking and to tackling the problem at all. One of the most commonly heard reasons for not trying something is we have tried that before and it didn't work. Just because a solution was not right for one situation, it doesn't mean that it will not be right for this one.

In order to improve your problem-solving skills, you have to maximise your ability to think creatively. But there are many barriers. Examine the list below. How many of these do you suffer from?

- You become trapped in a fixed way of thinking about things.
- You restrict the free growth of ideas within rigid boundaries.
- You are unaware of the assumptions you are making, which restrict new ideas.
- You think in terms of either/or when there may be other ways of looking at things.
- You think sequentially, rather than laterally, looking for the best idea, rather than a range of options.
- You suffer from premature evaluation, ie not giving your imagination enough time to look at things differently.
- You tend to want to conform and give the answer expected.
- You are fairly conservative.

Influence and persuasion

The way in which people influence others tends to fall into two categories: push techniques and pull techniques. The first is a more active. It may be that you have marshalled all the facts and figures, and you can back your argument up to the hilt. Another type of push is that of carrot and stick - people know what you want them to do, what they will get if they do it, and also what they'll get if they don't!

The pull techniques are more subtle. They tend to be associated with creating a

desire for the individual to be part of "the club" - getting people to buy into their company's vision would be an example. Pull techniques are characterised more by listening than talking, and by building on other people's good ideas.

When you use these techniques depends on the subject matter, and the subject. Are you dealing with someone who loves targets and responds to the threat of a kick up the backside? Or is it an individual who would prefer a softer touch? By selecting the right approach, you will be able to influence events far more effectively.

Internal issues

Perhaps you lack confidence Or maybe you are working on a hunch - if so beware because could find yourself working on all sorts of false assumptions. In extreme situations, your behaviour could even strike others as paranoid, or at least highly unreasonable. Another self-imposed brick wall is the feeling of having come to a standstill. Perhaps you have run out of steam, after a really gruelling project. Or maybe your creative juices have temporarily dried up. Even more common is "analysis paralysis", when people are so burdened by the data they have collected that they are unable to do anything constructive with it. There is nothing like cultivating a positive mental attitude. Are you the sort of person who is always telling yourself you're a failure, that you're not going to be able to cope, that you hate your job and your life, for that matter? If so, this is sapping your energy. Tests have consistently demonstrated that, if an individual thinks negatively, demeaning thoughts about themselves, they can physically be pushed around. Alternatively, if they talk themselves up, they actually become stronger. And the physical side is only one aspect. Thinking positive thoughts can make you more

self-confident and more able to take control of your life.

Loserpeak

People with a negative mindset are often characterised by "loserpeak" - looking on the downside of everything and taking things personally. When confronted by a problem, do you recognise any of these responses? The bold type represents loserspeak. The italics an equivalent phrase in winnerspeak.

Oh no, not again!

Ah, this is the same thing that happened last time I know what to do.

Why is this always happening to me?

Sorting out problems like this is part of my job. And others get their fair share of problems too.

We'll never get this done in time.

What do we need to do to get this done in time? If only I could be more like so-and-so So-and-so's good at this, I can go and ask him/her.

Re-framing the things you say and the way you think can have a profound impact on the way you approach problems. Solving them successfully boosts self-confidence, so the positive response gradually becomes your normal response. Suddenly you can see ways of scaling even the most daunting of those brick walls.

The authors are directors of the business psychology consultancy Nicholson-McBride

TOMORROW

First boost your sexual confidence - then make your relationship work

Sitting tight does not win elections, Mr Hague. It is time to be radical



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What should William Hague and his friends do now? Though the odd blows have been landed on New Labour since May, they have been glancing cuffs at best. Few Tory frontbenchers have any public profile at all – this must be the most shadowy Shadow Cabinet in modern times. There is barely a glimpse of an alternative new Conservative agenda that can't be trumped by Tony Blair. And now the Tory left has rubbished Mr Hague's one resonant point of difference, his hostile agnosticism about the euro.

The easy answer for the Leader of the Opposition is: do nothing. There are more than four years until the next election. Why rush to create policies now that are likely to be outdated by the time they are put to voters? All that is needed, say some Tory strategists, is that special form of political courage that allows one to sit tight. Everything has its season.

It is a beguiling idea. It sounds impressively self-confident, even wise. But it is also profoundly mistaken. Politics is

not all about elections; it is mostly what happens between elections, how the issues, forces and caricatures are shaped which then determine the election. Lack of seriousness now (which is what a policy of masterly inactivity really amounts to) will count against the Tories later. They will find that there is a resonant anti-Blair movement – but they are not leading it. Or they will find that their years of mummbling simply leave them further behind Blair when the next contest comes.

So, once more, what should they do? The main thing is to try to imagine what sort of party might be wanted by the British by 2002, and start creating it now. One senior American politician, who visited this country recently, surprised some of the Shadow Cabinet by advocating a kind of patriotic futurism, even at the expense of daily anti-Blair campaigning.

In that process of imagining, a few constants will help. People, or at least potentially Tory-voting people, never feel under-taxed. Even if Labour holds income

tax rates roughly where they are now, voters will be chafing under the weight of new "privatised taxes", such as higher insurance and pension charges. How will the Tories exploit this? What can they offer to cut instead?

Similarly, the traditional British suspicion of central authority and bossiness will be as strong shortly after the millennium as it is a couple of years before it. Under Blair, the gathering of all political power in Downing Street, and a distinct social bossiness offers thinking Tories some interesting ammunition.

To fire it, however, they'd have to ditch some old baggage. They would have to accept Scottish and Welsh devolution and Lords reform, and return to a passionate enthusiasm for local government, before they could credibly oppose Labour on constitutional matters – sticking up for the rights of Parliament as against the executive, for instance. They would also have to take a rather more open and less hide-bound approach to social values. In that

the famous semi-recantation of Michael Portillo a couple of months ago should be their set text.

Then there is Europe. A lower-tax, mildly libertarian and anti-centralist New Toryism might appeal to many voters. But if the party has set itself against a policy – monetary union – which by then most voters, and a majority of business, regard as good for jobs and incomes, the Conservatives would still be sunk. The Tories are the pragmatic party, or they are nothing.

Many would argue, of course, that monetary union will be ruinous. But our view is that, in any case, the combined power of the City, business leaders and a swathe of senior politicians of all parties will win the argument for EMU in the short term. So it would be bonkers of the Tory leadership to bind itself under all circumstances to the losing side.

What they could be doing is arguing for a much less bureaucratic, and more politically open EU, with less power for Stras-

bourg and the Commission. That may not be practical politics in 1998, but it will be tremendously popular in the country in the years ahead. There are other ideas for the Tories to tackle, including a radical rethinking of the cost structure and delivery of higher education in the wired-up world; new ways of paying for the privilege of green countryside in a crowded island; and cheaper defence options.

But, whatever policies are finally at the core of a reshaped Tory party, now is the time to start talking about them. We are into the ninth month since the election defeat and still the most vocal Conservatives are the old stagers of the Thatcher generation. One of the few gifts of Opposition is the freedom to think and speak imaginatively and radically. It is time for a ferment of new Tory thinking – the bad ideas will have been forgotten by 2002 and the good ones need to be tested. Until that happens, Mr Hague and his colleagues are going to continue 1998 as unhappily as they have begun it.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Britain in Europe

Sir: The fact that only six Conservative Members of Parliament joined a Euro Commissioner and a small number of former MPs in signing the letter (5 January) on Conservative Euro policy does, I believe, demonstrate that their views are those of a very small minority. Perhaps most significant of all is that these opinions of the Party's old brigade are not supported with the signatures of one of the new intake of Members of Parliament.

On the basis of discussions with Conservatives at meetings throughout the nation I would offer the opinion that the clear and unambiguous policy declared by William Hague is supported by the vast majority of Party activists.

It is no secret that the decision on joining the Euro currency marks the end of the road in our nation's absorption into a single European state without democracy, and the voters are entitled to have a choice of two parties offering the alternative arguments on this fundamental choice.

As regards the arguments advanced by the Howe signatories, I wonder if they genuinely believe that Britain's trade has benefited from Euro membership. While we formerly had a reasonable trade relationship, our balance with the EU since we joined shows a massive deficit of over £100,000m. Likewise, the claims about agricultural reform seem difficult to square with reality. The CAP remains the most significant and illogical protection racket ever devised by man. And on the issue of economic power I wonder if the signatories have looked at all at the devastating unemployment figures in the EU and if it troubled them that the UK had to create substantial additional unemployment and borrow vast sums of money before the UK escaped from the ERM.

But perhaps the most significant issue neglected by the signatories is the impact of the EU on democracy. EU policies, which now cover a vast area of legislation, cannot be changed in any way through the democratic process. And if the Conservative Party was to co-operate with Mr Blair in entering the single currency, I wonder what the signatories believe should be the issues to be decided upon at the next general election.

On the basis of the views expressed in the letter, I believe that our democratic problems in the UK could be greatly simplified if the signatories were to consider a transfer to the Lib Dems or new Labour where their views would be appreciated.
Sir TEDDY TAYLOR MP
(Rochford and Southend East, Con)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: The letter on Europe (5 January) was profoundly impressive – until one looked at the text and the signatories. The former was riddled with the usual weary clichés. Not a word about the £50bn in extra taxes that "harmonisation" of the tax base must entail (an unavoidable consequence of Economic Union, Clause 90, Maastricht Treaty).

The signatories, apart from two businessmen, are pretty firmly men of yesterday, but at least they are consistent. All

were passionately in favour of the ERM experiment which just happened to cost one million (mainly working class) Brits their jobs, half a million their homes and drove 100,000 small and medium business into receivership.

That particular nostrum destroyed the Tories' traditional credibility for being economically smart, which 40 per cent of their electorate refused to forgive or forget last May. When tipsters repeatedly propose three-legged donkeys, the smart punter refers to the form book. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Europe's vastly over-regulated economic form book is bad and getting worse (and no, deregulation will not take place in Europe, because under EU rules it cannot), while ours is good and getting better.

Finally, all your signatories were equally passionately opposed (when in office) to the

British people being consulted by referendum on their own destiny. So what is this "when the British people freely vote to do so" all about?
FREDERICK FORSYTH
Hertford

Sir: I note that quite a few of the "Tory grandees" who signed the letter in your column took little, if any, part in the last general election. Some indeed were many miles away throughout.

I did. I was out on the doorstep every weekday night for three weeks. If there was one thing I learnt it was that the broader public have an intense distaste for a party which perpetually squabbles in public.

The question all Conservatives have to ask themselves is: "Is winning the next election the main priority or are there other matters so vital this must take a back seat?" I know where I stand.

RODNEY BENNETT
Richmond, Surrey

Unjust cannabis law

Sir: The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, says that if campaigners can show that cannabis is not a dangerous drug, then the Government may reconsider its stance on cannabis prohibition ("Straw's challenge over cannabis drugs", 5 January).

The evidence has always been there. In 1968, the UK Royal Commission, the Wootton Report, concurring with other major reports on cannabis, said that cannabis ought not to be illegal and its use did not pose unacceptable risks. Since then other reports have concluded that cannabis is not addictive, does not lead to hard drug use, does not detrimentally affect memory or motor skills (including empirical testing of the effects on drivers), does not cause cancer or damage the lungs, and is not associated with any particular lifestyle.

Maybe the arrest of Jack Straw's son has achieved some-

thing after all. Maybe now people will wake up to the fact that this unjust and unworkable cannabis law may eventually lead to the arrest of their own sons and daughters, for using a safe plant in preference to dangerous intoxicants, a crime without a victim.

JACK GIRLING
Chairman
Campaign to Legalise Cannabis
International Association
Norwich

Sir: I did not wish to know the name of the young man arrested on a charge of dealing in cannabis. Learning his identity, and that of his father, told me nothing useful about the Government, its policies, its probity or any other matter of legitimate public concern.

Michael Streeter recognises (Saturday Story, 3 January) that "there are good reasons to protect juveniles facing criminal allegations". He then adds, "in cases of teenagers accused of similar offences ... and

named by the media, government law officers have not stepped in and sought protective injunctions". If it is true that the media are so lacking in wisdom and compassion, then the correct conclusion is that more such injunctions should be sought, and vigorously upheld.

The Rev PADDY BENSON
Heswall, Merseyside

Sir: When 19 years old, I was convicted and fined £100 for possessing (not dealing) less than one-sixteenth of an ounce of cannabis at the Reading Festival. I too come from a "good family".

Now 27, I wish to study for a PGCE and teach primary children. Does the Home Secretary think I would be suitable for such a post? I find myself hoping that William Straw is also convicted. The weed will not harm his prospects as it has mine.

K SELBY
Leeds

Welfare reform

Sir: It is amazing that Ken Jackson can so elaborate a condemnation of something that does not exist ("Welfare Reform? We really don't have any choice", 2 January).

He argues that Tony Blair is right not to defend the status quo, and he criticises those who do. Just who does defend it? No one to my knowledge. So why does Ken Jackson – and various ministers – imply that critics of the Government's handling of welfare reform are against all reforms and for the status quo?

It is one way of denigrating them. But the fact is that all of the critics I know, including myself, favour changes to the welfare state. I want it to be easier for disabled people who can work to do so. But any change should preserve benefit levels for those who have no prospect of work – and that includes most disabled people. Ken Jackson should have given us his opinion on that.

LORD ASHLEY OF STOKE
House of Lords
London SW1

Library fever

Sir: When young lads aren't watching or playing football they are often drawn to read about it: one valuable spin-off from the success of *Fever Pitch* is that there are now many well-written books about every aspect of football in print.

Canny teachers and parents should therefore load their supposedly bibliophobic charges ("Football mania has a lot to answer for", 3 January) with a library about their favourite team – although I concede this might be problematic for supporters of neglected minnows such as Darlington, Halifax or Manchester City ...
RICHARD KURT
London NW1

Paying for the Pill

Sir: Madeleine Simms (letter, 3 January) carefully overlooks the fact that people may be quite happy to pay the £40 charge for the Pill, provided it went towards improving medical services for the sick. Is it seriously being suggested that large numbers of people would deliberately risk pregnancy because they are unwilling to contribute to the cost of their own contraceptives?
ALAN PAVELIN
Chislehurst, Kent

Dodi, Daniel Arap, Greg 'n' Tim, Elton: a boys' own guide to the news in '97



MILES KINGSTON

Every year for the past 10 years I have brought you a list of the top 10 boys' and girls' first names of the preceding year. This list is not based, like everyone else's list, on names given at birth, at christenings and so on, but on newspaper headlines, because news names are very different from ordinary names. It is one of the strange things noticed by students of names that the commonest ordinary names such as John and James, Mary and Susan, very rarely crop up in the news. Similarly, names that commonly occur in the news, such as Sting and Madonna, Prince and the artist formerly known as Dana, are very rarely, probably never, given to children.

This year has been no exception. Indeed, although John Major was indubitably in the news a lot, and also indubitably our Prime Minister until May, the name John never hit the headlines. If a paper had said: "John dies out", nobody would have known who it was. John Major? John Prescott? Most people would have thought that, if anyone, it was Elton John who was flying out. We have often pointed out in this space that if a politician has a handily short surname, the press will always prefer it to their first name, unless the first name is uncommon. That is why we learn to talk about Blair, not Tony, Hague, not William, Clinton, not Bill, and that is why none

of those names appears in our Top 10 this year. (Indeed, it is hard to think of any politicians who have become famous under their first name. Benjamin Netanyahu is the only famous Benjamin alive today, but he is never referred to as Benjamin, only the faintly ridiculous name Netanyahu. Perhaps like was the last politician not to be known by his surname, apart from Maggie.) It is also odd how some names are household names one year, and gone the next. (And in the case of Elton, back again the year after that.) Looking at lists from past years I find such names as Sting and Rod, Seb and Red Ken, Virginia and Edwina. Where

are they now? Where indeed? But enough of this speculation and down to hard facts. Here is the list of the Top 10 Boys' Names for 1997, based entirely on newspaper and media analysis. Previous year's positions are in brackets.

1. Dodi.....(1)
2. Charles.....(5)
3. Greg 'n' Tim.....(1)
4. Elton.....(1)
5. Daniel Arap.....(1)
6. The Two Johns.....(1)
7. Piers.....(9)
8. Mohammed.....(10)
9. Ken.....(6)
10. Gianni.....(1)

One or two notes are in order, I think. First, this is the first time for some time that we

have not had a set of initials in the top 10 news names. OJ was very popular for a while, and so was the South African PW, but this seems to be going out of fashion. Incidentally, you would think that the name Nelson would catch on from South Africa, but Nelson Mandela is another example of the way in which politicians most often become known by their surnames.

One of the most surprising aspects of the whole business was that the overall winner was a name which had never featured before in any position, namely Dodi, though I don't think it will be featuring again next year. Piers owed its popularity to its being sported by both a tabloid editor and a

tabloid Member of Parliament. Indeed, political scandal can often catapult a name to popularity: Neil and Jonathan were bobbing round in the top 20, and I am sure that Jack will do well next year.

One of the names that did really well in 1996 was Michael, but almost all the bearers of the name seemed to fade away in 1997. (Flatley, Portillo and Heseltine gave the impression of vanishing, and Jackson sort of did the same, while Michael Hutchence did the same, though even more so.) Ralph and Raulph did quite well, though they tended to get confused, as they have both been linked to the surname Fiennes. Chris very near-

ly broke into the Top 10, as it was a name sported by two men in the news last year, Evans and Patten, both of them, like kings across the water, poised perhaps to seize power.

Finally, one can note the receding of the fashion for laddish nicknames. No more chaps called Tel and Del, and not many called Hezza or Bazza or indeed Gazza. This fashion started to fade just in time, for otherwise Tony Blair might have become known as Tozza, which would have been hard to bear, especially for him. Tomorrow: the top girls' names of 1997, the year in which the Spice Girls arrived, Diana departed and the Teletubbies did whatever it is that Teletubbies do.

The letter that rocked the Tory lifeboat



DONALD
MACINTYRE
CHRIS PATTEN
CHOOSES SIDES

There is a memorable moment in the film of *The Third Man* when Trevor Howard examines Alida Valli's forged papers and murmurs regretfully, "Good. Very good. But not good enough." This is exactly the right reaction to the rather skilful pretence by the Tory presidium yesterday that there was nothing of real significance in the letter to *The Independent* from the most senior Tory pro-Europeans. Listening to Michael Howard, you would be forgiven for thinking that there was not a cigarette paper between his own views of EMU and those of the nine former Cabinet ministers and their colleagues who wrote to offer their strong support for the Blair government's policy of actively preparing for EMU. After all, said Mr Howard at his most silky, he himself will support Tony Blair if he pursues the right European policy. It would be 2002 before the euro notes and coins were issued. It would take plenty of time after that to assess whether EMU was working. Was Tony policy - which would rule out EMU entry for at least two parliaments - not therefore a simple matter of waiting and seeing?

Elegant bunkum but bunkum nonetheless. First, many of the most dramatic economic effects of EMU - including the locking of interest rates by the participating countries - will probably be apparent well before 2002. Second, if Tony policy is so pragmatic, why on earth was it hardened last year from one of ruling out EMU entry "in the foreseeable future" to one of ruling it out for 10 years, other than to appease those in the party - Howard foremost among them - who are implacably opposed to British entry into a single currency on unchangeably political grounds?

But bunkum for a reason: The alternative defence, that the letter was merely the same old pro-European story from the same old faces was always a bit threadbare. Ask yourself who at the moment has more resonance with the British electorate: Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine - or the current Shadow Cabinet, William Hague included? But threadbare or not, it wasn't available. For the big new catch in yesterday's list is Chris Patten. The former governor of Hong Kong didn't have to sign the letter. He is busy. 70,000 words into his big book about Asia. He isn't by instinct such a full-blooded enthusiast for EMU as - say - Lord Howe or Ken Clarke. Indeed those who talked to him during John Major's visit to Hong Kong in March 1996 were left with the unmistakable - and rather surprising - impression that he was nearly as sceptical about a single currency as Major himself. And yet he took little persuading to sign up to yesterday's letter. So what's he up to?

The first thing to say is that Patten has become distinctly interested in the domestic scene once again. Expect a series of speeches and articles about some of the big questions in British politics: issues from wel-

fare reform and the terms on which Blair might be able to build a cross-party consensus for it - to local government and how Treasury resistance to giving it more power should be overcome. This doesn't, I think, mean that he has decided what to do when he finishes his book and the accompanying television programmes in the autumn. At one level, something relatively non-political, at least initially, is always possible. Who better for example to front and write a TV mega series on the British Empire? But Patten's career has been all about big public sector jobs: he notably hasn't ruled out going for the London mayoralty. And would he be able to turn down, if and when Leon Brittan stands down, the EU commissioner's job which Tony Blair would be sorely tempted to offer him? The idea of playing second fiddle in Brussels to Neil Kinnock would certainly not attract. The prospect of a plum EU portfolio just might.

But on the big question of whether to return to mainstream politics, Patten is still keeping his options open. He is unusually hesitant about foisting himself on a suddenly available constituency in a by-election - a course he refused after he lost his seat in 1992. He would surely be uninterested in the prospect of a job, even, if it were ever to arise, the top job, in his party if it looked likely to be in semi-permanent opposition. Some well-connected Tories believe that a referendum vote in favour of PR - and the consequently real prospect of a business friendly, pro-European grouping breaking away from the Hague-led Tory party - remains by far the likeliest possibility for luring him back to the Commons. But whatever turn his career takes, he did something important by signing yesterday's letter. Lenin would have called it siding with your "objective allies". But whatever you call it, it clearly tells the beleaguered pro-European left in the party that whatever private doubts he may have had about the single currency he, along with Clarke and Heseltine, is on their side.

For it is precisely Patten's relative agnosticism about EMU entry that makes his signature on yesterday's letter so important. Patten has always been more excited by the widening of the EU than its deepening. He probably wouldn't have started from here at all. But he was deeply irritated - just as overtures were being made to him about possibly rejoining the new Tory fold via a by-election - that the Shadow Cabinet hardened its anti-EMU policy. More important, having come to the conclusion that EMU will happen - and that it will be the most important change in international economic relations since Bretton Woods - he rightly regards it as crazy for the Tory party to adopt a programme that depends for its success on EMU crashing in ignominious failure round Europe's, and therefore inevitably to a large extent round Britain's, ears. This matters, and not only to the Tory party.

As a politician who looks to the future, Patten has made it much more difficult for those round Hague to claim that the pro-Europeans, such as Clarke, are embracing an obsolete Toryism. But one of the lessons for the Prime Minister is that a consensus is building here that is starting to look distinctly formidable, even in comparison with the Conrad Black-Rupert Murdoch axis of which he has been so wary. It is an alliance which is there to be deployed if and when Blair himself uses the EU presidency to shift public opinion towards Europe, including the single currency. If Blair reads the letter right, he will be just a little bolder than he has so far been. And for all the Tory leadership's brave attempt to gloss over the letter, Hague should worry. It was one more sign that his European policy will end up on the wrong side of history.

Governing by focus groups is just playing at democracy



Giving the people what they are thought to want: the 1987 Royal Knockout tournament at Alton Towers Photograph: Photographers International



SUZANNE
MOORE
ON ROYAL
UNEASINESS

I hope very much that I will be asked to participate in the new focus groups set up by MORI and approved by the Queen and the Monarchy are going to use in order to find out what the public really wants. I am more than happy to be observed behind two-way mirrors elucidating my finer feelings on the role of hereditary privilege in British life. I don't mind in the least sharing with my fellow citizens my tips on how the Royals might further annihilate, sorry modernise, themselves.

Alas, it will probably not be yours truly but the usual suspects from middle England who will be rounded up to give their ultra-reasonable opinions on all this. In these gale force days you don't need a weather man to know which way the wind blows, and you don't need a pollster to tell you that when it comes to the Royals the winds have changed. Nonetheless the Royal makeover presided over by the courtiers of New Labour has already brought a few cosmetic changes to this tired institution. The blindingly obvious messages have at last got through. Perhaps hunting and shooting is bad and skiing is good. Perhaps

sneering is bad and smiling is good. Perhaps standing next to pop stars - if you do it with enough irony - is good, while taking yourself very seriously is bad. Perhaps annexing the Blairs as slightly groovier in-laws is good, while withdrawal from public life is bad.

All of these strenuous efforts are being made because of Diana, whose instinctive populism meant that she was always "in touch", indeed too touchy for some. That (through the aid of focus groups) the Royals should try and emulate what came so naturally to her would have surely made her laugh. They will doubtless pay MORI a king's ransom in order to learn how to appear more human. Yet the unquestioned rise of the focus group is a worrying trend.

If we can have government by focus group and monarchy by focus group, why don't we just do away with all these anachronistic organisations and be ruled by MORI with its groups of willing and self-selecting subjects. The triumph of the focus group represents both a lack of imagination and a depressing view of human nature, as well as being another sign of post-ideological politics. Focus groups ask people what is right or wrong with something: they rarely offer them alternatives or ask them to come up with something radically new. As with a jury, often the stronger members of the groups will persuade the waverers to agree with them.

At one newspaper I worked for, a focus group came up with the interesting finding that they all loved one particular columnist. Did he get a raise? No. The problem was that he didn't exist. (After one member of the group had observed that he liked his column, the others had agreed that he was the highlight of their daily read.)

What should never be forgotten is that, basically, techniques created originally to sell products are being used for a very different purpose indeed: to organise consent and minimise discussion and dissent. Doubtless the techniques currently used are much more sophisticated than those in which housewives were invited to free-associate about washing powder, but the underlying principles remain the same. Thus focus groups are excellent sources of information for those in the business of giving people more of what they are already familiar with, such as another kind of can of beans. They can tell you what consumers know they already want, but they are not set up to initiate or innovate. As many talented entrepreneurs will tell you, often people do not know what they want till you present it to them. Some needs and wants cannot be predicted by using only what is already available on the market. Where focus groups have been useful in various campaigns is in rebranding a product, moving it from one sector of the market to another. In politics, for example, we have seen how the female vote was courted both here and in America, with policies aimed specifically at women.

In other words, despite all the hype, focus groups merely tell us how to make a product more attractive; they cannot tell us how to come up with an entirely new product. One obvious result of this is the double-speak currently being used by the Government. Thus cuts are not cuts but "opportunities". However, it is clear that while focus groups were thought invaluable during the election, they are used fairly selectively: their results are themselves manipulated. Focus

groups may be used to find out how to make the Millennium tent a more desirable proposition, but were they ever used to see if we wanted the damn thing in the first place?

The whole emphasis on presentation, image, spin suggests that most of the people can be fooled most of the time. It assumes that you can give people what they don't want if only you dress it up differently. It assumes that appearances are always more important than substance. Yet it continues to neglect the fact that more and more people understand these processes. We know about soundbites and make-overs, we have grown up with them, they are not hidden from us.

The myopia of those obsessed with focus groups actually suggests to me a profound misreading of public opinion. If you listen to what people say, if you attune yourself to the culture, to our various leisure activities, to our own understanding of ourselves, then what you see and hear expressed over and over again is a desire for authenticity, for something real - whether that takes the form of contact with nature through extreme sports or a hope for those in public life to be more honest. Diana was perceived above all things to have this authenticity, a quality that can never be manufactured.

Now we have the horrible

spectacle of the Royals being forced into spontaneity by the findings of a bloody focus group. Can they not see that while they can tamper with the edges of their castles and ignore the other polls, which say that support for them is dying out, this whole ridiculous enterprise makes a mockery of what they represent in the first place.

Either the monarchy itself believes it has a divine right to rule or it doesn't. Asking its subjects what they think of it and then changing accordingly is playing at democracy. But then playing at democracy is what these focus groups are all about. In giving a few punters a severely limited range of choices, the pretence is that their influence will be great. Yet the power of the focus group is always a version of passive, reactive, consumer power. You still end up with the same old can of beans, repackaged, redesigned, repositioned in the market.

What if we don't want to be mere consumers of the Royal image any more than we want to be loyal subjects? Don't believe what the pollsters and the pushers tell you; all this asking you what you think is really the opposite of choice, the opposite of democracy. That's why the Royals have finally seen the light and realised that focus groups rule, even though no one ever voted for them.

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Why Ulster's Protestants are unhappy with Mo Mowlam



DAVID
MCKITTERICK
UNIONISM'S
DILEMMA

Do Unionists and loyalists have a point when they complain about the conduct of the Northern Ireland peace process, maintaining that republicans are getting things all their own way? Yes they do, but only up to a point.

The real crunch for the process will come, months and possibly years from now, if and when it is seen to lay the foundations of a lasting settlement. That will also be the crunch time for Ulster. Protestants, who will face the historic choice

of accepting or rejecting a deal that will be unprecedented in setting out a role for nationalists in the governance of Northern Ireland.

In the meantime, however, both Northern Ireland and its peace process are fragile and volatile entities which require constant micro-management to keep them on track and deal with recurring emergencies, such as that sparked off by the shooting of Billy Wright.

At the moment most Protestant spokesmen complain of imbalance, accusing the Government of favouring nationalism and republicanism. They demand more confidence-building measures, which is to say concessions, for the Protestant community to even the score. While such spokesmen present a united front in expressing a general unease, they are also, for the moment at least, obscuring the fact that the pro-union community is riven with confusion and divisions. There is agreement that all is not well, but no clear view on what needs to be done.

London and Dublin are firmly of the view that the peace process needs to be as in-

clusive as possible. They also agree that efforts need to be made to underpin both the IRA and loyalist ceasefires. Hence Gerry Adams gets to meet Tony Blair in Downing Street; hence republican prisoners in Britain are repatriated to Belfast and Dublin.

Many Protestants either approve of such developments or reluctantly accept that they are useful in maintaining the peace process and hence making a return to war less likely. But spokesmen for Unionism tend automatically to classify such moves as goals scored against their community and hence a blow to their side.

The issue of prisoners, always one of the most sensitive and potentially explosive, illustrates the divisions within Unionism. The question of early releases poses a major conundrum in that leaders, such as David Ervine, who have parliamentary associations, want to see loyalists inmates released as quickly as possible.

David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, however, takes a much sterner view of releases, reflecting the more general Protestant view that those who

have committed a crime should serve the time. The fact also is that there is no way of releasing loyalist prisoners without at the same time also freeing IRA prisoners.

This is just one of many divisions in Unionism, within which party support is scattered over five separate political groupings. The second largest of these, the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists, took no less than 36 per cent of the Unionist vote in an election last year. Mr Paisley has taken his party out of the talks process and remains a vociferous critic of the peace process and indeed any agreed settlement.

But he is not the only critic of Mr Trimble, for four of the 10 UUP MPs advocate pulling out of the talks, while others have adopted positions of studied and not particularly supportive ambivalence. Mr Trimble's clear need to guard his flank may help explain why his party is presently raising a clamour that other criticism as over-pitched and exaggerated.

But he also reflects a genuine deep-seated angst in the Protestant community. After decades of terrorism and dis-

ruption, it is being asked to reach an accommodation with its traditional enemies. It is being told it must accept a new culture of equality, and that it should accept the bona fides of such as Sinn Fein.

These are controversial concepts for a deeply conservative and often pessimistic community, one of whose deepest fears is that of the enemy within. One of its oldest mottos is "Not an inch," a slogan equating negotiation with weakness and warning against compromise. Although most Unionists yearn for peace, they are keenly aware that the peace process was not of their making. They are now being asked to sign up for an idea which began with northern nationalism, spread to Dublin and has now been espoused by London.

Tony Blair does not appear anti-Unionist to them but Mo Mowlam, they claim, does: hence the comparative lack of criticism of the Prime Minister, but the uninhibited condemnation of the Northern Ireland Secretary. Old-fashioned male chauvinism plays its part in this.

With so much insecurity around, it is not altogether sur-

prising that some Unionist spokesmen should fall into the trap fashioned for them by the extreme groups and issue statements that heighten uncertainty rather than seeking to calm it. A great many Unionists, while holding reservations about the peace process, nonetheless fervently hope that it will succeed and prevent a return to war. They are, however, nervous about the price of peace, by which they mean the type of sacrifices and concessions they may be asked to make.

And just as they did not conceive or shape the process, they have not produced creative thinkers to define what their ultimate goal should be. All Unionists are clear enough that the link with Britain should be maintained and if possible strengthened. But they have been unable to sketch out either to themselves or the others involved the shape of the ideal society they should be striving for. The absence of that sense of vision results in a lack of direction, making it easier for the gunmen out there to generate destabilising crises which, they hope, will derail the peace process.

18/OBITUARIES

Peter Taylor

Peter John Brough Taylor, film editor: born Portsmouth, Hampshire 28 February 1922; married first Elizabeth Holden (three sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved), second Franca Sili (two daughters); died Rome 17 December 1997.

The 1957 Academy Award for film editing went to the British editor Peter Taylor for *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, David Lean's magnificently realised CinemaScope epic of the shameful building of the Siam railway by British soldiers interned by the Japanese. It is a marvellous film which won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and still stands today as one of the finest ever war films, a recognised popular classic.

Although film industry wages may assert that the editing Oscar came with the letter of engagement on a David Lean film – and in later years it is certainly true that Lean, a former editor, would himself dictate the precise nature of the cutting – none the less, Peter Taylor had served a long apprenticeship with Lean. His Oscar for *Kwai* was an honest vindication of his talent, for Taylor physically edited the film into shape, working closely with Lean only on the final cut. In fact, the first assembly was made by Teddy Darvas, since Taylor was involved as supervisor on a series of British "B" features produced by the American Dan-

ziger brothers, a position he left as soon as possible to fly to Ceylon to edit *Kwai*.

Taylor had worked his way up through the cutting rooms, including assisting Lean when he was an editor, graduating to assembly editing on such distinguished British films as *Uncle Silas* (1947) with Jean Simmons, the superb Academy Award-winning Laurence Olivier version of *Hamlet* (1948), and Carol Reed's brilliant and now classic *The Third Man* (1949), assembling for the editor Oswald Hafenerichter.

As assembly editor on *The Sound Barrier* (1952), Taylor assisted its director David Lean and his editor Geoffrey Foot by sifting through all the flying material and assembling it into rolls in order to facilitate cutting: all aircraft left-to-right, all aircraft right-to-left, and aeroplane dives, and so on. Although Taylor had already edited *Cairo Road* (1950) and had reverted to assembly editing for financial reasons during the 1950/51 slump in the industry, his work on *The Sound Barrier* proved him invaluable to Lean, and when Geoff Foot was not able to edit *Hobson's Choice* (1954) Lean offered the position of editor to Taylor.

Taylor's contribution to *Hobson's Choice* was significant. On one occasion, the striking scene where Brenda da Banzie as Maggie proposes to John Mills as Willie Mossop, Lean was having particular difficulty securing the performance he required from a very truculent da

Banzie. He asked Taylor to edit the sequence together in order to determine whether retakes would be required, and where. The sequence was screened for Lean on the scoring stage at Shepperton, and when the lights went up Lean laughed and told Taylor: "Never in a thousand years would I imagine the scene could be cut that way." Taylor's face dropped, but Lean intended his comment as a compliment. There were no retakes.

After he edited a series of English features, including Guy Green's interesting *Portrait of Alison* (1955), Lean offered Taylor *Summer Madness* (1956), the Katharine Hepburn-starrer known in the US as *Summer Time*, and inadvertently began Peter Taylor's lifelong love affair with Italy.

Summer Madness was the first film in Britain to be edited entirely on magnetic film (no optical sound transfers at all during editing), and the film union the ACT gave permission for the French adviser editor Jacqueline Thieudot to work alongside Taylor, for whom she ended up as assembly editor.

Taylor edited the prestigious 20th Century-Fox CinemaScope adventures *The Man Who Never Was* (1956) and *Sea Wife* (1956), a film originally begun by Roberto Rossellini, and then the call came to cut *Kwai* in Ceylon. Despite winning the Academy Award over the editors of *Gunfight at the OK Corral*, *Pai Joya* and *Sayonara*, Taylor – never pushy and without an agent – failed to con-

solidate his Oscar success with a comparable feature. Instead he returned to Europe to edit Michael Powell's long-delayed *Honey Moon* (1959) and a slew of British features, including Guy Green's notable *The Mark* (1961) which secured its star Stuart Whitman an Academy nomination for Best Actor.

By 1963 the British New Wave had beached, and Peter Taylor edited the superb *This Sporting Life*, the debut feature of the cine-literate director Lindsay Anderson. It is a remarkable study of working-class angst, with a cutting style like no other British feature before it, an ever-underrated achievement by Taylor, as Anderson, received all the credit, as directors do. *This Sporting Life* remains, with *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, the supreme testament to Peter Taylor's craft and talent.

Also from that period was *One-Way Pendulum* (1965), directed by Peter Yates from N.F. Simpson's absurdist play, allowing Taylor some bold strokes of original narrative editing. Unfortunately the film failed to find a mass audience, and has barely a cult following today.

Taylor married for a second time Franca Sili, the sister of the Italian editor Roberto Sili, settled in Rome, and edited a series of high-budget, would-be distinguished movies: *Judith* (1966) with Sophia Loren, the director Edward Dmytryk's *Anzio* (1969) with Robert Mitchum, and the all-star comedy extravaganza *Monty Carlo or Bust!* (1970). More satisfactory was the

period editing for Franco Zeffirelli, including the Taylor-Burton *Taming of the Shrew* (1967) and the opera films *La Traviata* (1982) and *Otello* (1986). Later work included Hugh Hudson's feature-length documentary *Fungio* (1971) and the made-for-cable Mussolini: *The Decline and Fall of Il Duce* (1985), with Bob Hoskins as the dictator and Anthony Hopkins as his son-in-law. There was little doubt that Taylor's self-imposed Roman exile kept him away from contemporary mainstream production.

He was still called upon, though, and did salvage work for the director Terence Young when his editors (and one of his stars) decided not to return to Italy after their Christmas break, on a virtually unshown feature known either as *Marathon or Run For Your Life*. Taylor edited the complex Rome-set marathon sequences and finished the film for Young.

Well respected, and highly regarded amongst his peers, Peter Taylor featured in *Film Comment* magazine's 1977 listing of the world's top film editors, scrupulously checking and correcting his own credits. This distinguished editor's legacy lives on not just in his work but in a virtual cutting-room dynasty including many fellow technicians via marriage (Taylor's daughter, for example is married to Christopher Lloyd, the son of John Huston's editor Russell Lloyd), embracing many film-industry families.

— Tony Sloman



Alec Guinness in *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957), which won seven Oscars including Taylor one for film editing
Photograph: Kobal Collection

Archbishop Bronislaw Dabrowski

Bronislaw Wladaw Dabrowski, priest: born Grodziec, Poland 2 November 1917; ordained priest 1945; consecrated bishop 1962; Secretary, Polish Bishops' Conference 1969-93; died Warsaw 25 December 1997.

Archbishop Bronislaw Dabrowski was not one to hog the limelight and appeared on first meeting to be a man of few words, reluctant to venture an opinion without first weighing all the consequences. But behind the scenes he played a key role in the Polish Catholic Church for nearly 25 years as secretary of the bishops' conference with responsibility for negotiating directly with the

Communist authorities, a delicate balance between asserting the rights of a church that represented the overwhelming majority of the Polish population and making practical concessions to ensure the *modus vivendi* continued.

A clergyman of the old school, Dabrowski placed a high value on loyalty, and faithfully served two primates, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński (until his death in 1981) and his successor, Cardinal Jozef Glemp.

Born in Grodziec near Kalisz amid the German occupation, Dabrowski entered the Oratorian Order in 1935, taking his initial philosophy course at the seminary in Zdzuska Wola. He then studied for two years

in Italy, before returning to Poland in 1939. After the German and Soviet partition of Poland, he resumed his studies at the Zdzuska Wola seminary but was soon forced to continue in secret in Nazi-occupied Warsaw. He took part in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, but was seized by the Germans and sent to an internment camp. Freed with the defeat of the Nazi forces in Poland, he was ordained priest in June 1945. His first task was to direct a newly established orphanage before being put in charge of an apprentices' institute in Warsaw.

In 1949 Wyszyński appointed Dabrowski director of the secretariat department concerned with religious orders.

The following year, in the wake of the accord between the new Communist regime and the Church, he was appointed to head the Office of the Secretariat empowered to conduct negotiations with the government's Office for Religious Affairs under the supervision of the secretary of the episcopate.

In March 1962 he was consecrated assistant bishop of Warsaw, although in practice his work remained little changed. In 1969, following the death of the incumbent, he was elected secretary of the episcopate, the office to which he was re-elected four times and which he would hold for nearly a quarter of a century. He was appointed a

titular archbishop in June 1982.

Although Cardinal Franciszek Macharski of Krakow was the leading church representative on the joint government-church commission set up in 1980, Dabrowski was a key participant. Despite tensions caused by government restrictions on the Church and the Church's support for the opposition, commission meetings were frank and at times even jocular as the two sides built up a rapport. But below the surface the serious issues were never far away. The two sides discussed frankly whether certain courses of action might trigger Soviet intervention.

Dabrowski became a firm supporter of the independent

Solidarity trade union, whose emergence in 1980 was eventually to shatter the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe. In at least one case, Dabrowski played an effective mediating role between Solidarity and the government in bringing strikes to an end during the tense early months of 1981 and negotiated for the release of political prisoners.

When General Jaruzelski declared martial law early on 13 December 1981, he sent a special emissary to the cardinal's palace in the middle of the night to give prior warning. Glemp reportedly heard the news with sadness. Dabrowski, the second to be informed, was adamantly opposed, though continued liaising with government rep-

resentatives. One week later he was on his way to Rome to give Pope John Paul II the first direct account of events in his homeland, which even the Vatican had been unable to obtain as the government had cut communication with the outside world.

Martial law brought to the surface the tensions between Glemp and Dabrowski, with the cardinal urging caution, fearing the reinstallation of a Stalinist regime that would repress the Church while Dabrowski believed that the Solidarity movement could not be crushed. But neither allowed their differences to affect their working relationship, a testimony to Dabrowski's diplomatic skills.

— Felix Corley

Eddie Chapman

Edward Chapman, wartime double agent and adventurer: born Sunderland 16 November 1914; married (one daughter); died St Albans, Hertfordshire 11 December 1997.

Eddie Chapman was a safebreaker and crook, a highly successful double agent and the only Englishman to be awarded the Iron Cross. The false information he sent back to Germany about the effects of the V1 and V2 rockets probably saved the lives of a great many Londoners.

Born in the North-East during the First World War, Chapman was well versed in the harshness of life. As a youth he joined the Coldstream Guards, but spent considerable periods in the "glasshouse" (the army term for gaol) before being thrown out of the Army. He turned to smash-and-grab before progressing to safebreaking, specialising in gelignite.

In 1939 he was arrested for safebreaking in Glasgow, and while awaiting trial, escaped to Jersey, where he was immediately imprisoned. He was about

to be returned to Scotland when the Germans invaded the Channel Islands.

Sensing a way out of his predicament, Chapman offered to carry out sabotage for the Germans on the UK mainland. He was extremely well trained by them, given the code-name Fritz, and in 1942 dropped by parachute near Littleport in Cambridgeshire. Equipped with wireless, pistol, the obligatory cyanide capsule and £1,000, he was detailed to blow up the De Havilland aircraft factory at Hatfield where the new Mosquito fighter-bomber was being made.

On landing he reported to the local Littleport police station where he had difficulty in convincing the policemen on duty that not only was he an escaped prisoner turned German spy, but that he wanted to pass on secrets to MIS. But MIS already had information from Bleichley Park on his activities and realised how valuable he was. They allowed him to radio his German controller and agreed that he should appear to carry out his mission. To obtain the necessary explosive mater-

ial he returned to an old haunt, a quarry in Kent, to steal gelignite.

With his new British code-name Zig-Zag and the aid of Jasper Maskelyne, a stage illusionist and expert in deception and camouflage, he raided the factory. He created an enormous explosion which blew off part of the roof. They then smashed holes in all the windows, covered the rest of the roof in camouflage netting and threw debris around. German aerial reconnaissance recorded a successful operation and from that moment Fritz's signals about troop movements and other information were accepted by the Germans.

Soon afterwards he was ordered back to Germany. MIS found a British ship bound for Lisbon. En route it was attacked by the Luftwaffe. When they arrived in Lisbon Chapman reported to the local Nazi representative, who gave him two pieces of "coal" which he was instructed to put aboard the ship before he finally left. This was in fact explosive material designed to detonate when put into the furnace. Not easily de-



Chapman: a complex and genial man who made an art-form of deception

ceived, Chapman handed the "coal" to the captain. On his return to Germany he received a hero's welcome.

He then seemed to disappear in Europe and was later lo-

cated by MIS in Norway, where he was blowing his pay and talking with a very bad German accent. Shortly after D-Day, with the tide turning against them, the Germans planned to launch

extensive raids on London with the V1 and V2. Chapman was briefed and told to report back on the effects of the rockets. Before departing he was awarded the Iron Cross. There is little

doubt that, in his own inimitable way, Chapman had created a considerable bond with the Germans he worked with, which he recalls in *The Eddie Chapman Story* published after the war.

Dropped again in Cambridge, he reported to the nearest police station, where they again didn't believe a word of his story, until he insisted that they telephone Littleport, where the same desk sergeant who he had spoken to two years earlier remembered him. He was debriefed by MIS and set up in a flat in Kensington. He reported back to Germany, giving grossly inflated figures about deaths from the V1 and V2 rockets and wherever possible redirecting them to sparsely populated areas. However, the double life and the large amount of money the Germans had paid him led Chapman back to his old cronies in the West End and nights at Smokey Joe's and the Shim Sham Club. He was indiscreet about the sources of his income and MIS, unable to control him, never used him again.

When the war ended Chap-

man, now a little short of money, had his wartime memoirs serialised in France. He was charged under the Official Secrets Act and fined £50. A few years later, when they were due to be published in the *News of the World* the whole issue was pulped. But Chapman was not easily put off a mission, and managed to get his book, *The Eddie Chapman Story*, published in 1953, while the film *Triple Cross*, which opened in 1967, was loosely based on his own life. He continued his adventurous life, getting involved in smuggling in North Africa – and having to be smuggled out of Tangiers himself – and working in the colonies. In the Eighties he ran a health farm in Hertfordshire.

Perhaps the greatest accolade for this extraordinary, complex and genial man who made an art-form of deception came from Baron Stefan von Grunen, the German Chapman had reported to while an agent. Although he had been deceived throughout the war, von Grunen attended the wedding of Eddie Chapman's daughter.

— Max Arthur

DEATHS

ALLENBY: John, CBE, died on New Year's Day following a cruel battle with great fortitude. Adored husband of Cecile, admired and loved father of Nicole and Jillie, father-in-law of Richard and Robert and grandfather of Giles and John. Funeral at 4pm on Thursday 8 January at Guildford Crematorium. Memorial service to be announced. Donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research or to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Centre.

BERRIN-TAYLOR: Betty, suddenly in Durham, on 4 January, after a long illness. Loved wife and mother of Roger, Sarah, and Felicity. Funeral service on Friday 9 January, at 11.30am, in Durham Cathedral. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Centre.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

to the Dean and Chapter, Durham Cathedral.

CRADDOCK: Kenneth Samuel, FRICS FRTP, of Birchen Commemorative, Herefordshire, on 20 December 1997, at the age of 85 years. A much-loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

HARRISON: The Rev Albert Arthur (Dick), peacefully at Burwood Nursing Home, Poole, aged 96 years. Reunited with Elsie, he will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Cremation at Poole Crematorium on

Thursday 8 January at 3pm. No flowers, donations if desired to Burwood Nursing Home, Poole, at 1.45pm on Friday 9 January. No flowers please, donations to Nacro (National Association for Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders) for Women Prisoners Resource Centre, 0171-582 6300 extension 229.

TAYLOR: On 4 January peacefully at Haywards Heath, Chertsey (Lady), aged 83. Funeral at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Farnham, on Friday 9 January. No flowers please, donations to Nacro (National Association for Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders) for Women Prisoners Resource Centre, 0171-582 6300 extension 229.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned on 0171-292 2822 (24-hour answering machine 0171-292 3211) or faxed to 0171-292 2010. Charges are £250 a line (VAT extra).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. M. Cooper and Miss L. H. Greenhalgh: The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Cooper, of Colchester, Essex, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Greenhalgh, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Birthdays

Major Kenneth Adams, Hon Fellow, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 78; Mr Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, 43; Mr Paul Azinger, golfer, 38; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Chancellor, Stirling University, 71; Mr Roger Barrow, MBE, 53; Sir Ash-

ley Bramall, former Chairman, Greater London Council, 82; Sir Robert Clark, chairman, Mirror Group Newspapers, 74; Mr John Clive, actor and writer, 60; Mr John Croft, painter and criminologist, 75; Mr Angus Deayton, writer and broadcaster, 42; Mr Kapil Dev, cricketer, 39; M Sacha Distel, singer, 66; General Sir Martin Farnside, director and senior defence adviser, Short Bros, 69; Sir Hugh Fish, water technology, 75; Mr Barry John, former Welsh rugby international, 67; Mr P. J. Kavanagh, poet and novelist, 67; Mr Christopher Lewington, chairman and chief executive, T. Grouper, 66; Miss Nancy Lopez-Melton, golfer, 41; Professor Lord McColl of Dulwich, surgeon, 65; Sir Brian Moffat, chairman and chief executive, British

Steel, 59; Mr Martin O'Neill MP, 53; Lord Pakenham, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Committee, 91; Mr Bill Sims, former trade union leader, 78; Mr John Sowden, former chairman, Costain Group, 51; Miss Sylvia Syms, actress, 64; Mr Terry Venables, football manager, 55; Sir Ernest Woodroffe, former chairman of Unilever, 86; Miss Loretta Young, actress, 85.

Anniversaries

Births: St Joan of Arc, Maid of Orleans, 1412; Jacques-Etienne Montgolfier, balloonist, 1745; Paul-Gustave Dore, illustrator, 1833; Alexander Nikolaevich Scriabin, composer, 1872; Khalil Gibran, writer, 1883. Deaths: Fanny Burney

(Madame d'Arbly), novelist and diarist, 1840; Louis Braille, deviser of a blind alphabet, 1852; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th US President, 1919; Archibald Joseph Cronin, novelist, 1981; Rudolf Hametovich Nureyev, dancer, 1993. On this day: Samuel Morse gave the first public demonstration of his electric telegraph, 1838; the Allies began to evacuate Gallipoli, 1916; the first opera was broadcast in Britain, *The Magic Flute* 1923; the new Sadler's Wells Theatre opened in London, 1931; the Battle of the Bulge ended, 1945. Today is the Epiphany (Feast of the Three Kings), Twelfth Night, Old Christmas Day and the Feast of St Erminold, St Guarinus or Guarino of Sion, St John de Ribera, St Raphaela Porras and St Wilfrida.

Lectures

National Gallery: Richard Verdi, "New Appearances (1): Van Dyck, François Langlois", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Patricia Baker, "Medieval English Tiles", 2.30pm.

British Museum: Sam Moorhead, "Roman Britain is Booming: fourth-century opulence", 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "Henry VIII and Catherine Parr", 1.10pm.

Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

صكتا من الامل

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

South Korea close to deal with bankers as Asian currencies tumble further

South Korea was increasingly confident last night that urgent talks with the world's leading bankers would produce an agreement to ease its multi-billion dollar foreign debt crisis. Jim Levi in London looks at the latest attempts to find a solution while Stephen Vines in Hong Kong watched as the Asian currencies continued to tumble.

A Korean government official Chung In Young said discussions with US bankers in New York, including a proposal to convert some of its commercial loans into sovereign debt, were proving "positive". London banking sources were also confident that the international financial community would agree its own bail-out plan for South Korea by tomorrow. Korea's foreign creditor banks are believed to have up to \$100bn of short-term loans outstanding to the country's banks and industrial companies. The bulk of those loans are due for repayment this year.

The international banks are in urgent meetings with Korean officials in New York in a bid to stitch together an agreement aimed at rescheduling this debt. This is likely to include swapping \$15bn of the commercial debt into sovereign debt. The creditor banks are themselves under pressure from central bankers and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to do a deal.

If they fail to reach agreement by tomorrow a loan of \$8bn promised by the G-7

leading industrial nations will not be made. That loan is part of a \$57bn IMF rescue package put together by its officials in November.

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin applied a measure of political pressure saying America was "enormously concerned" about the financial crisis in South Korea.

"We are enormously concerned about South Korea and the people of South Korea, and we want to enable South Korea to return to a position of financial stability," he said.

One key to achieving that goal would be to put reforms in place that would address the issue that gave rise to the problems in the first place, he said.

Japanese banks have the biggest exposure to Korean borrowers with \$24.3bn of short-term loans outstanding at the end of June. Britain's exposure is relatively small. According to the Bank of England, loans to Korean companies at the end of June last year totalled \$6.1bn of which about \$4bn was due for repayment within six months or less. HSBC, acting as coordinator in the negotiations on behalf of British banks, is believed to be optimistic about the outcome.

Parallel discussions are taking place over Korea's longer-term debt problems to foreign banks. Initially, the focal point for these talks appears to have been a controversial scheme floated last week by JP Morgan. It proposed Korea's bank creditors buy \$15bn of Korean government bonds on condition that the Korean government itself bought out around \$7bn or \$8bn-worth of debt the Korean banks owe foreign banks.

But many banks felt that such a plan to increase the Korean government's exposure



Money worries: Investors queue to withdraw their assets at the failed Daehan Investment Banking Corp in Seoul yesterday.

Photograph: Reuters

to the debt problem would not be welcome as it would send the wrong signals to the IMF, which had already agreed to lend it huge sums. A new plan to deal with this longer-term debt issue is under discussion but no details have been released. One suggestion is that the new plan will involve a massive new Korean government debt issue.

The package might also include the outright sale of control of certain Korean banks to overseas interests. Last week the Korean government announced plans to sell off two of its weaker banks, SeoulBank and Korea First Bank.

Meanwhile, Asian markets began their first full week of new year trading with currencies

plunging to new lows and the focus of concern to Thailand and Indonesia.

In Thailand, Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said yesterday that his would be seeking to renegotiate the terms of the \$17.2bn bail-out with the IMF.

The IMF had demanded that Thailand produce a budget surplus equivalent to 1 per

cent of its gross domestic product in the 1997/98 fiscal year. Mr Chuan said that it was unlikely this target could be met. "We have cut spending substantially," he said "but shortfalls in revenue will be as high as 100bn baht (£1.3bn), which makes it important to adjust the (IMF) plan."

In Indonesia, the local cur-

rency fell almost 10 per cent yesterday to a record low of 6,700 against the dollar ahead of today's budget. The rupiah has lost more than 60 per cent of its exchange value since July. Some of the fall has been caused by local investors who are worried that the country will not be able to meet its short-term debt commitments, triggering defaults.

Ofgas objects to Centrica sale of meter division

Centrica, owner of the British Gas supply business, is facing action by Ofgas, the industry watchdog, over moves to sell its division responsible for a million pre-payment meter customers to the company that manufactures the meters. As Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports, the move has already aroused concern from the Gas Consumers Council.

British Gas is selling the Central Quantum Office, based in Newcastle, to Landis & Gyr, the Swiss group which is one of the world's leading suppliers of utility meters and payphone systems. The two companies are expected to sign the deal, for an undisclosed sum, in the next two weeks.

A British Gas spokesman last night confirmed that a sale was imminent. "We've been discussing outsourcing Quantum for some time and hope a deal can be struck in the near future."

The Quantum Office, which employs 150 people, administers about a million gas meters in some of the UK's poorest households, including those using coins or electronic smart cards. Landis & Gyr already manufactures the meters for British Gas, which has a monopoly over the pre-payment system.

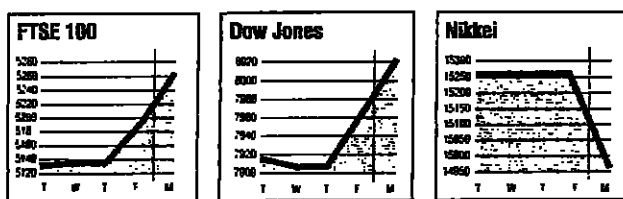
It emerged yesterday that under British Gas's existing licence Ofgas would no longer be able to control Quantum's charges to gas suppliers after the sale, which could hit pre-payment consumers. Ofgas has proposed toughening British Gas's operating licence to prevent an outside bidder from raising charges and has invited views from rival suppliers.

The Gas Consumers Council said it was concerned that Landis & Gyr could try to raise charges to fund investment in Quantum, which has been criticised as being outdated and expensive to run. Sue Slipman, the GCC's director, said: "Any sale of Quantum without sorting out its problems first would mean you end up with a monopoly you couldn't control. We are very worried about that."

The sale comes at a sensitive time in the gas industry, with Ofgas this week expected to rule on national price cuts planned by British Gas which could see its pre-payment customers enjoy much lower reductions than those paying by direct debit. British Gas is planning to knock 9 per cent off bills from 12 January, but has frozen pre-payment charges while Ofgas reviews the system.

— Michael Harrison

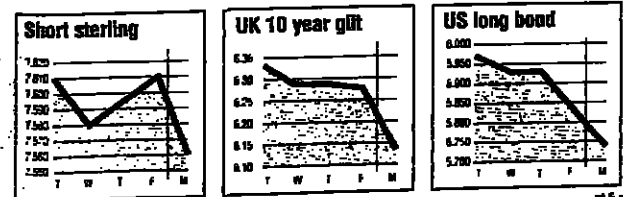
STOCK MARKETS



Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5262.50	69.00	1.33	5367.30	4036.00	3.30
FTSE 250	4028.70	29.40	0.73	4083.80	3384.20	3.31
FTSE 350	2523.20	28.90	1.16	2570.50	2013.40	3.38
FTSE All Share	2460.90	26.94	1.11	2507.68	1996.91	3.31
FTSE SmallCap	2328.50	8.30	0.36	2407.40	2182.10	3.34
FTSE Financials	1258.00	2.20	0.17	1346.50	1225.20	3.40
FTSE AIM	997.90	2.00	0.20	1138.00	965.90	1.16
Dow Jones	8017.11	50.57	0.64	8298.03	6356.78	1.71
Nikkei	14956.34	-301.90	-1.98	20910.73	14488.21	1.03
Hang Seng	10303.54	-377.03	-3.53	18820.31	9775.88	4.12
Dax	4384.61	88.44	1.61	4459.89	2875.06	1.83

INTEREST RATES



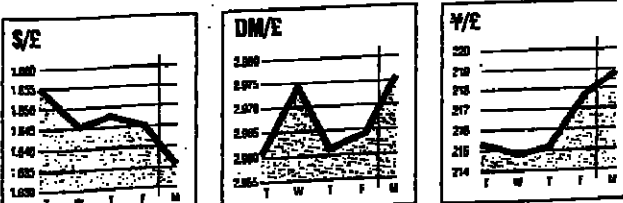
Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 year	1 yr disc	18 mth	1 yr disc	Long bond	1 yr disc
UK	7.64	1.11	7.67	0.53	6.13	5.75	-1.71
US	5.78	0.22	5.88	0.00	5.53	-1.00	-1.03
Japan	0.77	0.28	0.74	0.16	1.89	-0.88	-0.86
Germany	3.62	0.47	3.54	0.68	5.20	-0.75	-1.06

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
Land and Gen	520.00	42.00	7.66	Body Shop Intl	140.00	-6.00	-4.11
Parfuman	116.50	7.00	6.39	Ashtad Group	181.00	-7.50	-3.98
Colt Telecom	646.50	31.50	5.12	Reitrac GP	949	-35	-3.59
Prudential Corp	800.00	37.00	4.65	Lorrio	91	-3	-3.19

CURRENCIES



£/\$

at 5pm	Change	1 yr Ago
1.6315	-1.00c	1.6963

DM/£

at 5pm	Change	1 yr Ago
2.9758	+1.57p	2.6522

¥/\$

at 5pm	Change	1 yr Ago
218.54	+0.10	95.80

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next Day
Bank of US (\$)	15.62	-0.32	24.27	GDP	113.90	3.70	109.84
Gold (\$)	283.05	-5.00	357.95	RPI	159.60	3.70	153.91
Silver (\$)	5.88	-0.06	4.70	Base Rates	7.25	6.00	

source: Bloomberg

www.bloomberg.com

Life assurance bonuses cut despite rising markets

Millions of savers who own with-profits savings plans will suffer a sharp cut in annual bonuses this year - even though investments grew in 1997 by more than 15 per cent. As Andrew Verity reports, actuaries foresee even smaller payouts in years to come.

GA Life, one of the country's top ten life insurers, yesterday announced it was reducing its annual bonus to with-profits savers by 0.5 per cent - despite growth in savers' funds of more than 20 per cent.

The bonus declarations will dismay millions of savers who had hoped to cash in on a bonanza year for the equity markets. In 1997, GA's with-profits fund saw investment growth of 20 per cent. Yet pension savers with GA will only be promised a bonus of 8 per cent for the year.

Competitors of GA - which can keep up bonuses because of its giant reserves - are likely to declare even lower bonuses. With-profits pension savers with Norwich Union will get a return this year of just 6.75 per cent - compared to 7.5 per cent last year. GA said it could no longer pay such high levels of annual bonus when markets were all anticipating much lower growth in future.

Company actuaries, who set the annual bonuses paid to policyholders, measure the amount they can guarantee against the yield on long-term gilts.

Because these plunged last year to a low of 6.25 per cent, not seen since the 1970s, actuaries no longer feel confident enough to guarantee high annual bonuses every year. Instead, the actuaries are promising more in maturity payouts - which are not guaranteed.

According to the Institute of Actuaries, life offices have only been able to guarantee high annual bonuses because of unusually high investment growth right back in 1974, when stock markets hit their nadir in the midst of the oil price shock.

The low yield on gilts reflects a belief, shared by actuaries, that as long as inflation stays low, investment returns from stocks and shares can be expected to do the same.

Nick Dumbreck, a leading figure at the Institute of Actuaries, said:

"I think it is absolutely right that companies should be reducing bonuses at this time. It doesn't mean savers are getting less overall - they are just getting less now."

He added that lower inflation would mean their savings would be worth more in the long term.

Peter Nowell, chairman of the Institute's life board, added: "In the past we had some very high investments returns - and

some very high inflation. During the 1990s, inflation has become lower so the target for investment growth has become lower as well."

"My concern would be if life offices tried to keep their annual bonuses right up, which might have an impact on their financial strength. Annual bonuses ought to be below gilt yields."

Savers with 25-year policies, who have benefited from the long bull-run, can expect unprecedented payouts this year. A man who started paying £50 a month to a 25-year GA Life policy, maturing now, would receive a payout of £120,784 this year, up from £114,554 if he had started a year earlier. This is the same as an interest rate of 14.2 per cent a year.

Seagram seeks buyers for Oldbins chain again

Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment giant, is believed to have put Oldbins, its off-licence chain, back on the market again.

The group is understood to have approached several potential buyers in the off-licence industry about the sale the business, according to informed sources.

However its initial approaches have been rebuffed and it may find it difficult to find a buyer, raising the possibility of an eventual management buy-out.

Oldbins was put up for sale last spring with a price tag of up to £50m. Tesco and Greenalls were in the frame to buy the business but balked at the cost after having a closer look at the deal.

The chain was eventually taken off the market. However Seagram is still keen to off-load the business and has made it clear it is open to offers.

The price tag demanded is believed to have fallen to £35m, although some City observers believe that it may fail to fetch that much and could go for nearer £25m. Analysts believe

that buyers have been put off by fact that Oldbins sites are mainly leasehold which attract relatively high rents. Some of its sites are also considered too small.

Founded in 1963, Oldbins now has 238 stores in the UK. Its sites are concentrated in around London and the South-east, although they stretch from Inverness to Truro and it recently opened two shops in Dublin. But it is a minnow compared with Thresher and Victoria Wine.

The disposal would herald the latest step in the rationalisation of an industry that has been battered by intense competition from the supermarkets, which have managed to undercut off-licences and win market share.

The flood of cheap duty-free imports from the Continent has also hit sales. Greenalls sold its Cellars off-licence business last year and sources suggest Whitbread is looking to sell the Thresher chain. A spokesman for Seagram declined to comment on the fate of Oldbins.

— Andrew Yates

Bass moves upmarket with Browns restaurants acquisition

Bass yesterday made its first move into the upmarket restaurant sector as it tied up the acquisition of Browns, the chain that is best known for its grand locations.

Bass plans a rapid expansion of the Browns chain, opening new sites across the country, after completing its purchase yesterday. It is already in advanced discussions on two sites in Edinburgh and Bath.

The financial details of the deal have not been disclosed but it is understood the final figure agreed on is around £35m and will make Jeremy Mogford, the group's founder, a restaurant millionaire many times over. Mr Mogford is staying on as a non-executive director of Browns to preside over its expansion plans.

Tim Clarke, chief executive of Bass Taverns, said: "Browns' management team together with Bass Taverns' resources gives us opportunities to further develop this highly regarded brand."

Mr Mogford opened the first Browns in The Lanes in Brighton in 1973 at the age of 23. The second came three years later in Oxford. Restaurants in Cambridge and Bristol followed.

— Andrew Yates

Vickers and Rolls-Royce disagree over sale veto

Vickers was at loggerheads last night with Rolls-Royce over whether the aero-engine company had the power to veto the sale of the Rolls-Royce luxury car business to a foreign buyer.

Under a 1973 agreement drawn up after the two halves of Rolls-Royce were split up, the consent of the aero-engine company is required if the car marque is transferred to a non-British owner.

Vickers said last night that it had received clear legal advice that the change of control provisions in the 1973 agreement were unenforceable under European Union law. A spokesman added that any attempt by the aero-engine company to exercise its veto would be a breach of article 85 of the Treaty of Rome governing restrictions on competition.

But a spokesman for the aero-engine company expressed surprise at Vickers' statement. He added that its legal advice was that the provisions of the agreement were enforceable and would be enforced if it was thought necessary to do so.

The dispute came as Vickers' advisers Lazard prepared to send out a memorandum of sale to interested parties. The document is being sent this week to six potential bidders - BMW, Daimler-Benz and Volkswagen of Germany, Chrysler of the US, the Japanese car maker Toyota and a consortium of wealthy Rolls-Royce owners led by the Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone.

Vickers executives believe that the aero-engine company could attempt to stop a full auction for Rolls taking place by trying to deliver it into the hands of BMW with which it has a joint aero-engine company.

This could affect the price achieved since there are suggestions that BMW is only prepared to pay £250m compared with the £400m-£500m that Vickers is hoping to raise.

— Michael Harrison

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

UK shares will suffer Asian flu

Which British companies have the most to lose from the Asian crisis? Given that Far Eastern markets first began to wobble in the summer, investors may think that this question is about six months too late. Certainly, shareholders in companies as diverse as HSBC and Rio Tinto have already seen the former Asian tigers chew more than a fifth off the value of their investments.

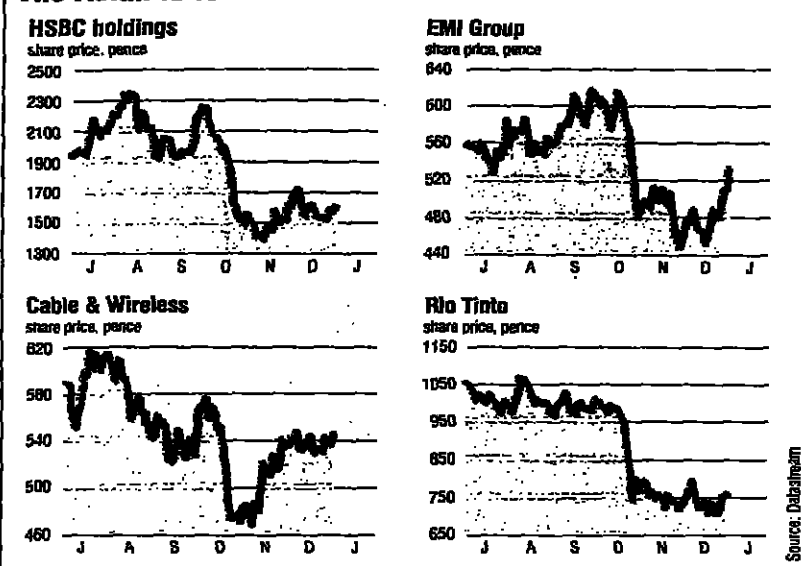
But that doesn't mean the issue won't rumble on. Much as with the strong pound last year, the lingering effects of the crisis look set to become one of the big investment themes of 1998. Indeed, Asian turmoil looks set to take the place of factors such as Diana's death, the strength of sterling, and the El Nino weather system as the leading excuse for profit warnings.

Much depends on what happens to Asian markets over the coming year. The various rescue packages on offer may still manage to avert economic collapse, but the crisis could also deepen. Hong Kong abandoning its currency peg to the dollar would be particularly bad news for companies with large investments in the former colony. Either way, economic growth in the Far East is going to be a lot slower than expected 12 months ago. And that has far-reaching implications.

The companies with large direct exposure to Asia are well known. HSBC and Standard Chartered will suffer slower asset growth, and will also have to sharply increase bad loan provisions. Cable & Wireless, through HongKong Telecom, will also see less growth than it had previously expected. Inchcape, the car importer and bottling group, derives almost half of its profits from the region. Not surprisingly, share price falls for these groups have been dramatic.

Other, more dynamic effects are less easy to quantify. A company may only derive a small proportion of its profits from the Far East. But if those profits have been growing very quickly, the slowdown there could have a disproportionate effect on a company's overall profit growth. This effect is particularly pronounced in the case of Rio Tinto, the world's largest met-

The Asian fallout



als group, which has seen its share price fall by a quarter in the past six months. Although its sales are spread across the world, most of its growth is in Asia.

Companies in commodity industries are particularly vulnerable, even if they do not have direct exposure to the region, because over-supply in the Far East will prompt a price slump which could quickly spread around the globe. That puts British Steel, ICI (through its remaining bulk chemical interests) and paper makers such as Rexam on the danger list.

Firms selling large capital goods to Asian countries are clear casualties of the crisis, especially if the projects depend on government cash. Construction orders could also dry up, and existing projects could be shelved. So watch out for groups like GEC, which through its (soon to be demerged) GEC-Alsthom joint venture is involved in large power engineering projects in the region.

Consumer goods are more complicated. Shares in luxury brands such as Gucci have taken a pasting as investors anticipate that the crisis will hit Asia's affluent and fashion-conscious consumers' pockets. Although Britain is short of prestigious fashion brands, other goods will suffer. Music groups EMI and Polygram, which have benefited from booming CD sales in Asia, have already seen a slowdown.

By contrast, Unilever claims that crisis has yet to hit sales in the region. The consumer goods giant has invested heavily to achieve its target of making 50 per cent of its sales from emerging markets early in the next century. However, if Asian consumers do stop buying ice cream bars and washing powder, Unilever will be a big casualty.

The most curious case, perhaps, is that of British manufacturers. With a few exceptions, they have escaped the fallout by virtue of their relatively low exposure to the region. Some, like Siebe, even reckon local currency devaluations will make acquisition targets more affordable.

The danger, however, is that cheaper currencies give Asian exporters a valuable competitive boost in their quest to expand their European markets. This effect may be even more pronounced if demand in the Far East falls away, releasing unsold products into Western markets. Although the strong pound has already done a lot of damage to engineering share prices, a wall of cheap Asian imports flowing into Europe could dash any hopes of recovery.

So although Asia will fade from the headlines over the coming year, that doesn't mean the full effect of the crisis has been felt. Long after the worst of the turmoil is over, UK share prices will still be coming down with Asian flu.

Slug & Lettuce entrepreneur plans float for his latest pub venture

Hugh "Sooty" Corbett has become a legend in the pub business by building up the Slug & Lettuce and Harvey Floorbangers chains and selling them off for a handsome profit to larger drinks groups. Andrew Yates discovers he is at it again with grand plans to make his new Tup Inns a household name.

Hugh Corbett is poised to announce the acquisition of four pubs in London, which will more than double the size of his fledgling Tup Inns chain. The

deal is part of Mr Corbett's plans to float the new group on the AIM market within the next 18 months.

The Tup chain is the latest brain child of Mr Corbett, who bought his first pub, the King's Arms in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire, almost 30 years ago and since then has become one of the most successful pub entrepreneurs in the country.

He founded Slug & Lettuce in 1984 and became a pub millionaire the first time over when the first seven sites were sold to Grosvenor Inns six years later for £4.36m.

Next came Harvey Floorbangers, a chain of rowdy pubs and popular live music venues, which were sold to Regent Inns in 1996.

Mr Corbett has now pumped some of the millions he made from those sales into his new venture.

The Tup Inns have taken elements from both of Mr Corbett's previous endeavours. The wooden floors and seats from the Harvey Floorbangers chain are still there but the new sites will concentrate on offering a wide range of food and premium ales.

They will also be adorned with the group's sign, a randy sheep, the name Tup being taken from the term used to describe rams which get frisky with ewes.

The first Tup Inn opened in Fulham Road in March 1996. Central London sites in Marylebone and Gresham Street followed.

Up to now the focus has been buying pubs within the M25 and the new sites will be located in south-west and north-east London. However, Mr Corbett is looking to expand the chain around the country.

Mr Corbett has just appointed Paul McKinley, who was instrumental in growing the Harvey Floorbangers chain, as Tup Inns area manager to help oversee the group's expansion.

The final details of the deal are still being thrashed out and should be announced later this month.

Mr Corbett hopes to buy another three pubs by the end of the year, taking the chain to 10, before floating on the stock market.

Vodafone claims victory over rival mobile operators in race for new subscribers

Vodafone yesterday claimed leadership over its three rival mobile phone networks after a record pre-Christmas race to sign up customers.

But Orange, which saw its share of market growth slip back, warned that other operators had been drawn into a "dangerous numbers game" to boost their figures. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports

The four mobile groups added 726,000 net new subscribers - the difference between those joining and those leaving the networks - between October and December, easily beating the previous record 574,000 quarterly increase achieved two years ago.

The combination of aggressive price cuts and a £15m high street store rebranding programme helped Vodafone to add 241,000 net new customers, the network's best quarter since it began operations in 1985. Vodafone said its chain of 250 stores accounted for 54,000 new subscribers in December alone.

One2One, the network owned by Cable & Wireless and US West, continued its recent strong performance with

206,000 net new subscribers in the final quarter, 142 per cent above the same period in 1996. Tim Samples, One2One's managing director, said the group was launching a £3.2m post-Christmas advertising campaign, emphasising that its network now covered 95 per cent of the UK population.

"One2One was known as the M25 network. It will take time to erase that image," he said.

The other two networks, Cellnet and Orange, trailed the two market leaders, adding 149,000 and 130,000 net new subscribers. However, Orange claimed the price cuts by Vodafone and One2One could have attracted lower-spending customers.

Graham Howe, Orange's finance director, added that Vodafone's figures were inflated by the group's pay-as-you-go service, which uses older analogue network. Some 68,000 of Vodafone's net new subscribers took up the service, compared to 15,000 who bought Orange's digital pre-payment service.

But Terry Barwick, Vodafone's corporate affairs director, said that, even excluding the pre-payment service, the network had added 173,000 digital customers.

Separately yesterday Vodafone confirmed a £267m deal to buy 26.5 per cent of Libertel, the Dutch mobile operator, taking its stake in the group to a controlling 61.5 per cent.

THE INDEPENDENT

£10 Conran lunch

Everyday in any one of six Conran restaurants

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants anyday throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, 6 Conran Restaurants are exclusively offering readers of The Independent and Independent on Sunday a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10. In addition, readers can take advantage of further special offers throughout the evening at a number of the restaurants, details of which we shall publish over the course of the promotion.

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting the Independent offer. On your arrival at the restaurant you must present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.

Terence Conran, widely recognised as the UK's leading restaurateur has played a significant role in changing the way we eat out. He has created 11 unique restaurants, and this year will open two more in London and one in Paris.

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

Valid between Monday January 5th and Friday January 9th

Name _____
Address _____

This voucher entitles the holder and all members of their booking to participate in The Independent/Conran Restaurants £10 meal offer.

BLUEBIRD

BLUE PRINT CAFE

LE PONT DE LA TOUR

MOZZO

QUAGLINO'S

ZINC BAR & GRILL

Bluebird: 350 King's Road, London, SW3 5UU. 0171 559 1000

Bluebird is an Epicurean experience for lovers of food and drink: a large restaurant and bar, together with a food market, chef shop, traiteur, cafe and luxurious dining club. Since opening last year, it has become a popular choice for those who want to enjoy good food and wine in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The menu combines the best classic and contemporary flavours and techniques, and readers can enjoy dishes from the grill, roisserie and wood-fired oven. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm-7pm.

Blue Print Café, The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, London, SE1 2YE. 0171 378 7031

Blue Print Café is a favourite destination for many in the city. Admired for its spectacular view, good food and relaxed atmosphere, the restaurant looks out over the Thames and Tower Bridge. Blue Print's food is simple and light reflecting influences from around the globe and the menu changes frequently to take advantage of seasonal produce. New for 1998, Blue Print Café have introduced a set lunch menu which independent readers can try at the special price of £10 for two courses. Also available early evening is a selection of great Spanish food and rustic wine for £10. Lunch 12noon-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm-7pm.

Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill: 36d Shad Thames, London, SE1 2YE. 0171 403 8403

The centrepiece of the Butler's Wharf Gastrodrome, Le Pont de la Tour overlooks the River Thames and is situated by one of the most famous bridges in the world - it's namesake, Tower Bridge. The entire complex includes an elegant restaurant, lively bar & grill and series of splendid shops. At the Bar & Grill, the menu is a mix of regional French, Irish, British and Italian dishes in simple, generous style. For independent readers the chef has created a new set menu (£10 for two courses or £13.50 for three courses) full of classic Bar & Grill dishes. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm-7pm.

Mezzo: 100 Wardour Street, London, W1V 3LE. 0171 314 4000.

"When we opened Mezzo in September 1995, we wanted to make people feel good, to add to the quality of life in London and to bring something completely different to Soho," says Terence Conran. Described as the largest restaurant in Europe, Mezzo is in fact a collection of complementary, food related activities all gathered together under one enormous roof: Soho's only bakery, a patisserie, cafe and four bars, as well as two different restaurants - Mezzo and Mezzanine. Mezzo is reached by an impressive staircase which winds down through a dramatic double height space where the kitchens create a spectacular stage. The food is a fusion of east meets west, northern and southern hemispheres, where chef John Torode shows his passion for mixing ingredients with flair and innovation. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm-7pm.

Quaglino's, 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6AL. 0171 930 6767

Celebrating its fifth birthday on February 14th this year, Quaglino's has been described as ".....the talk of London, a place so polished and swanky it could only have come from Terence Conran." Vogue Entertaining Guide June/July 1993. Described as the largest restaurant in the depths of the recession, this glamorous restaurant has been one of London's most successful establishments. Inspired by the great brasseries of Paris, the menu is predominantly a mix of British, French and Italian dishes. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Zinc Bar & Grill, 21 Heddon Street, just off Regent Street, London, W1R 7LE. Tel 0171 255 8899

Zinc Bar & Grill is a lively and informal restaurant and bar, in the heart of London's West End. Just seconds away from the hustle and bustle of Regent Street, Zinc Bar & Grill provides an oasis from the West End frenzy, a place to meet friends for a quick drink, a light lunch or a relaxed dinner. The menu is simple and reasonably priced with the majority of dishes cooked on the grill and roisserie, on view to restaurant customers. Exclusively at Zinc, readers will be able to enjoy three courses for just £10 between 12 noon and 7pm.

*Closed from 6pm on Sunday

Terms and conditions: To participate in the offer simply telephone the restaurant of your choice direct (from those listed above) to make your table reservation, identifying yourself as an Independent diner. On arrival at the restaurant you should present your correctly dated token to qualify for the offer. Tokens are only valid for the dates printed. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in the promotion. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability. Diners will not be able to participate in the promotion if they have not made a prior reservation. The offer entitles the Independent reader and all members of their booking to a two course lunch or early evening supper (pre 7pm) at Mezzo, Bluebird, Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill, Quaglino's, Blue Print Café or Zinc Bar & Grill for £10. Price includes one side order against a specially prepared menu. The discount at the Bluebird / Le Pont de la Tour shops applies to selected purchases in store. The menu may change from time to time during the course of the promotion. The cost of the meal includes VAT and excludes drinks. A discretionary service charge of 12.5% will be added to each bill. The offer is exclusive to Independent readers and this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is non-transferable. Conran Restaurants Ltd trading terms and conditions apply. Promoter: The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5AP

صلى الله عليه وسلم



OUTLOOK ON INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE KOREAN CRISIS. LABOUR'S NEW DEAL AND JAGUAR'S DECISION TO OPT FOR MERSEYSIDE

Why there can be no pain-free salvage for Korea

One of the ironies of the economic crisis that engulfed Britain in the mid-1970s is that we never had to draw on a penny of the International Monetary Fund aid so painfully extracted to help tide us over our difficulties. The mere fact that the IMF was prepared to lend the money helped restore confidence and ease the liquidity crisis. This, of course, is how IMF support is supposed to work. Unfortunately, it hasn't turned out that way with South Korea. Record breaking though the IMF and other international aid for Korea is, it still looks insufficient. As a result and in contrast to what happened with Britain, it has already been drawn on, payments have had to be accelerated and unless creditor banks can agree collectively to roll over their debt, it will soon run out.

Hence the sudden flurry of meetings among international bankers and policymakers and the renewed feeling of crisis about the Far East as the new year gets under way. The immediate problem is that the amount of debt owed by Korean banks and corporations that matures over the next six months easily outstrips the \$60bn of support agreed by the international community. The Koreans have been borrowing short and lending long. If there was no crisis, this short term debt might have been rolled over almost automatically and everything would have continued as normal.

But things are not normal. What has caused and deepened the South Korean problem is that bankers have not been prepared to do this. They have called in their loans in ever growing quantities with the

result that what began as a banking crisis has now become a sovereign one too. The country is quite literally running out of foreign currency reserves as corporations and banks attempt to convert their unwanted Korean won into dollars to satisfy the international bankers. A string of corporate and banking insolvencies threatens to turn in this way into a national insolvency.

As a result, proposals from JP Morgan and other investment bankers to solve the crisis by issuing Korean sovereign debt against the banking loans, look more than a little implausible. Very few investors would be prepared to take on Korean sovereign debt at present except on terms the Korean government would find too onerous to accept. Either that or there would have to be some kind of World Bank or IMF guarantee of the coupon, at which point the bonds would become not Korean debt, but in effect US debt. It is not clear the US tax payer would be up for that one.

There is, in any case, a philosophical argument against this approach. The IMF would not be keen to see the Korean government guarantee all, or even part, of the country's foreign debt, for this would merely encourage such bad lending to continue. There might eventually come a time, after confidence has been restored and the immediate liquidity crisis has eased, when it would be possible to refinance these debts with government-backed bonds, but this would very much be for the post-operative stage of recovery.

As in most insolvencies, bankers for the

time being have little option but to agree collectively to roll over their debts and hope the country eventually manages to work out its bad loans. Unfortunately, the prognosis at this stage cannot be one of total recovery. JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs and the host of other Wall Street investment banks trying to get a fee-earning foot in the door all claim to be able to deliver a pain-free way out of the crisis. That's their job.

Lamentably, it is hard to see how this can be the case. There's no such thing as a free salvage. One way or another, international banks with an exposure to Korea are going to end up taking a hit and South Korea's future ability to borrow will be correspondingly harmed. That's the way of the capital markets. No amount of fancy footwork from Wall Street is going to change it.

A better deal in London than Paris

This is a real tale of two cities. In France, following more than a week of Gallic mini-riots and occupations, the Socialist government yesterday introduced the obligatory 35-hour week as the centrepiece of its effort to create nearly a million new jobs, even though this will increase the national wage bill by about 2.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, on this side of the Channel, the Government launched its extended New Deal, which will subsidise employers who take on unemployed workers and cut

welfare to individuals who refuse to take up a job opportunity. It would be hard to devise a contrast that illuminated more clearly the difference in national economic philosophy.

The irony is that the ups and downs of the business cycle will favour the French economy this year, helping to chip away at the 12.5 per cent jobless rate, while the slowdown in the UK will perhaps put a halt to the decline in unemployment even as the New Deal gets into full swing. Neither trend is attributable to the government packages. In each case these are just supply-side measures which will only show results in terms of the number of people in work over the course of several years.

But the best indicator of the supply-side success of the contrasting Anglo-Saxon and Gallic approaches will be corporate profitability and investment. The UK's New Deal will, if only in a small way, improve the quality and reduce the cost of available labour. The French package will do the opposite, squeezing corporate profit margins. It is easy to see why the British approach will ultimately create a great deal more jobs.

The value of aid in Merseyside

The last time anyone tried to build a prestige car on Merseyside it ended in tears with the closure of British Leyland's TR7 factory in Speke. But that was two

decades ago, since when much water and a lot more Spanish practices have passed under the bridge. Today Jaguar will register its vote of confidence in the North-west by announcing that its new small car, the X400, is to be built at the Ford Halewood plant.

Jaguar is owned by Ford, which has separately decided Halewood is not up to building something as big standard as the new Escort. Fortunately, it has no such qualms when it comes to building cars to compete with the likes of the BMW 3-series, the Audi A4 and the Mercedes C-class models.

To be fair to Halewood, standards of quality, reliability and efficiency have been transformed since the days when Red Robbo ruled the roost over at BL. But that is not the whole story. Its productivity still lags a long way behind that of the two Ford-owned American plants which were competing for the investment. Halewood is also further away from its markets than the German plant that was also in the running, since the new baby Jag, unlike existing models, will be aimed squarely at the European market.

What Halewood also has going for it, however, is assisted area status. That translates into an aid package worth somewhere in the region of £50m out of a total investment of £400m. The 4,000 jobs the baby Jag will preserve are welcome, but what a pity that Halewood had to rely on a leg-up from the taxpayer to secure the investment and couldn't have done it on its own merits.

Signs of slowdown fail to dampen fears of further interest rate rises

The economy is showing every sign of cooling off, according to the latest indicators on industry and housing. But the financial markets are still not confident the slowdown will be fast enough to stop interest rates rising again. This month's signals will come in for extra-close scrutiny, says Diane Coyle, Economics Editor.

The first survey to take the pulse of manufacturing industry in December revealed a mixed state of health, with a pick-up in output and signs of bottlenecks combined with a slowdown in growth of new orders to the lowest since May 1996.

The manufacturing expansion entered its 19th successive month, according to the overall activity index reported by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. But it declined to 52.9 from 53.7 in November, pointing to slower growth.

"It isn't the conclusive signal either one way or the other that the markets would like. It is not very robust but neither does it give any support for the theory the economy is heading for

recession," said Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley.

Separately, Halifax reported a small decline in house prices in December, taking its measure of house price inflation sharply lower to 4.3 per cent from 6.1 per cent. This was the lowest rate since June 1996. Halifax insisted this did not mark the end of the housing market recovery. It is predicting a 5 per cent price increase this year.

The contrast between its measure and the alternative from Nationwide, the building society, has grown steadily wider during recent months, with the latter reporting the annual increase in house prices at 12.6 per cent in December. However, both lenders agree that the housing market has weakened.

Most commentators likewise agree that the pace of growth in the economy as a whole is on the verge of a slowdown. But even after yesterday's purchasing managers' survey, the financial futures market still indicated that the Bank of England is expected to raise interest rates by another quarter point notch to 7.5 per cent before the end of March.

"A lot of things could happen in January that make it premature to say interest rates are already at their peak," said David Walton at Goldman Sachs.

Official figures for retail sales, cutting through the conflicting anecdotes from retailers, and for GDP in the final quarter of 1997, are expected to have most influence on the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee. But these will not be available until after its meeting tomorrow and Thursday, making next month the most likely time for any further rate rise.

The signals in the survey were too mixed to be decisive. Output grew faster, and export orders also increased at a faster pace than the previous month. What's more, the companies surveyed reported that their suppliers were taking longer to make deliveries, a clear sign that industry is hitting supply bottlenecks. This was particularly marked in the consumer goods industries.

Yet, at the same time, the pace of increase in total order books dipped, the latest in a series of hints that domestic demand is weakening. Manufacturers also said the strong pound was keeping the price of their materials down, and they were continuing to have to cut costs.

"Certainly, the short-run outlook is subdued," said Kevin Darlington at Hoare Govett. But all in all, there was nothing in yesterday's figures to confirm forecasts of either a hard landing or a soft one for the economy.

Retail worries cast cloud over Monsoon's float

The £350m flotation of Monsoon, the women's clothing retailer, could be heading for stormy weather as investors fight shy of a new issue in the unsettled retail sector. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, asks whether it will be second time lucky for founder Peter Simon.

Fund managers have reacted coolly to the float's prospects, saying the company will struggle to secure the premium pricing its advisers are aiming for. They say Monsoon's abandonment of its float 18 months ago will count against it, as will the recent profits warning from Oasis Stores and downbeat messages about Christmas trading from other retailers. Investors will be looking for further clues from Burton's Christmas trading statement today.

Monsoon will not start its

presentations to institutions until the pathfinder prospectus is published later this month. But fund managers contacted yesterday expressed concerns.

One said: "There have been quite a number of disagreeable floats and there could be a buyer's strike developing. Because the float was pulled before you tend to be naturally suspicious."

Another fund manager said Monsoon's prospects might be dented by the disastrous performance at Lighthouse, the kitchens and bedrooms group, where the company's founder sold a significant stake in the business. Monsoon is 96 per cent owned by its founder Peter Simon. He will net £86m from the float.

One fund manager commented: "We will be looking at it very closely. I think it will be quite a difficult one to get away." Another said: "It will have a problems because of the Oasis warning but it depends on the price."

Few have any qualms about the company's trading record.

But they question whether its high margins are sustainable and whether it is coming to the market at the wrong time in the cycle when discretionary spending is starting to be affected by higher interest rates.

A key factor in the pricing will be Monsoon's failed attempt to come to the market in summer 1996. The float was abandoned due to concerns over the ultimate beneficiaries of a Maltese-registered trust which owned two thirds of the business. The trust has since been disbanded.

Monsoon's brokers this time, NatWest Securities, say they hope to secure a valuation of £350m, which would place the company on a historic multiple of around 20-times earnings. This is a premium to the market while fund managers and some analysts feel it should be priced at a discount.

Monsoon's trading in the run-up to Christmas is thought to have been solid while the winter sale is said to have started well.



A good read: Brian Linden (right) and Dick Munton (centre) of Cinven, with Mike Matthews, IPC chief executive

Liffe overtakes CME with record trades in 1997

The London futures exchange, Liffe, traded a record number of contracts in 1997, its 15th anniversary year, with a 25 per cent increase over 1996. The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange said it traded 209,425,548 futures and options contracts in the year. Last month was also the busiest December on record, it said. The average annual daily volume rose to 827,759 contracts, a nominal daily average value of \$178.81bn (£109bn). Liffe's chairman, Jack Wigglesworth, said: "Liffe's position as Europe's premier exchange, with the broadest range of contracts, meant that it was able to meet increased demand for risk management instruments arising from uncertainties over EMU and the turbulence in the Far East." He said Liffe had overtaken the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to become the world's second largest futures and options exchange. The Chicago Board of Trade is the biggest.

New trials at Chiroscience

Chiroscience, the pharmaceutical company, has started clinical studies of a new drug which it hopes will stop cancer growing and spreading. It said the drug, the D2163 matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibitor for cancer, inhibited enzymes which were believed to be important for the spread of tumours. Crucially, Chiroscience said D2163 was not expected to show the joint inflammation side effects which had dogged other inhibitors, making it suitable for long-term treatment and to prevent cancer recurring after radiation therapy or surgery.

Maiden wins rail tender

Maiden Group, the outdoor advertising company, has signed a five-year contract with Railtrack after a competitive tender for the concession to manage exhibition and promotional space on Railtrack's mainline stations in the UK. Maiden said it would invest to upgrade the exhibition facilities and ensure revenue improvement from the estate. Railtrack's exhibition estate comprises 12 display areas at 14 main stations managed by Railtrack, including key London termini as well as Leeds, Manchester Piccadilly, Glasgow Central, Edinburgh Waverley and Birmingham New Street.

RBS buys stake in A&P

The Royal Bank of Scotland has taken a majority stake in A&P Group, the UK's largest ship repair company which last year carried out the £12m refit of the QEII cruise liner, for around £56m. The bank's Royal Bank Development Capital subsidiary has acquired the stake from Schroder Ventures and National Westminster Bank.

Reed sells IPC magazines to Cinven buyout team for £860m

Reed Elsevier yesterday confirmed the long-awaited sale of its IPC magazines division to a management buyout team backed by Cinven, the venture capitalists, for £860m. But the media group stringently denied that it had not treated other bidders in the auction fairly. Peter Thal Larsen reports.

Cinven has arranged debt facilities of £580m for the deal, and will put up over half of the remaining £280m as equity. IPC's management team, led by chief executive Mike Matthews, will buy a "meaningful" equity stake with a consortium of banks controlling the rest. Cinven director Brian Lin-

den rejected allegations that the venture capital group had offered too much for the business. He said IPC, which leads the £1.5bn UK magazine market, publishing titles such as *Country Life*, *Woman's Own* and *Loaded*, had good growth potential. Cinven plans to invest in the business before floating it on the stock market in about five years' time.

Reed Elsevier said it was delighted with the sale. "We're very happy to have done it swiftly, cleanly and at such a good price," said finance director Mark Armour. The sale marks the end of Reed's involvement in consumer publishing. It is currently attempting to sell off what remains of its consumer books division.

Mr Armour said the proceeds, which will leave the group with net cash, would be used to develop its scientific,

professional and business divisions, which are concentrating on "must have" information.

Although Reed is currently seeking regulatory approval for its merger with Dutch publishing group Wolters Kluwer, Mr Armour did not rule out making acquisitions before the merger was approved.

The European Commission is due to rule on the deal in April, while shareholders will be asked to vote on it at the end of the same month.

Reed insisted that it had not received any better offers for IPC. The group had angered Cinven to enter into exclusive negotiations with IPC's management just before Christmas. But an adviser to Reed said that Cinven's bid had provided the best value, and that none of the other contenders had subsequently attempted to table a higher offer.

This formal notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of, and has been approved by, the London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). This formal notice should be read in conjunction with the listing particulars dated 5th January 1998 (the "Listing Particulars") which contain full details of Elementis (1998) plc (the "Company") and the Introduction of its ordinary shares of 5p each to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange.

Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for up to 450 million ordinary shares of 5p each ("Ordinary Shares") to be admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange. It is expected that admission will become effective and that dealings in the Ordinary Shares will commence on 24th February 1998.

Words and expressions detailed in the Listing Particulars have the same meaning in this formal notice.

Elementis (1998) plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with registered no. 3299608)

INTRODUCTION
of Ordinary Shares to the Official List
Sponsored by J. Henry Schroder
& Co. Limited
Listing Agent: Cazenove & Co.

Elementis (1998) plc (which is to be renamed Elementis plc) will become the parent company of the Elementis Group whose principal business will be performance chemicals with a focus on chromium chemicals and colourants and additives for coatings and plastics.

AVAILABILITY OF LISTING PARTICULARS

Copies of the Listing Particulars are available (for collection only during normal business hours) from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP on the two business days following the date of publication of the Listing Particulars, and may also be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) for collection until 21st January 1998 from the registered office of the Company at:

One Great Tower Street
London EC3 5AH

and from:
J. Henry Schroder & Co. Limited
120 Cheapside
London EC2V 6DS

6th January 1998

Takeover talk and buy-back hopes fuel blue-chip advance

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Takeover speculation and hopes the flow of share buy-backs will continue gave blue chips another boost, lifting Footsie 69 points to 5,262.5.

Trading was often brisk as Legal & General's £220m convertible bonds buy-back kicked started insurers and talk of corporate action plagued banks and blue chips seen as vulnerable to unwelcome strikes.

L&G led Footsie constituents, gaining 42p to 590p. Prudential Corporation, 37p higher at 800p, was not far behind and Commercial Union and GRE were among others to respond.

Abbey National climbed to a peak, gaining 46p to 1,160p, on the growing conviction it will be involved in the next round of banking deals. National Westminster Bank, another candidate for the

corporate merry-go-round, put on 45p to 1,070p.

Vodafone, 17.75p higher at 462.75p, enjoyed the dual benefit of a best-ever quarter and persistent speculation US giant AT&T is preparing to strike.

Energis, controlled by National Grid, dialled a 4.5p gain to 258.5p and Grid added 6.5p to 398p. There are suggestions AT&T could mount a double strike, scooping up Vodafone and Energis.

Grid was the most actively traded blue chip, with volume put at nearly 55 million shares. The HSBC banking giant acquired around 12.5 per cent in a complicated deal with Olayan, an Athens-based company run by Suliman Olayan, a Saudi Arabian billionaire, in March, 1996.

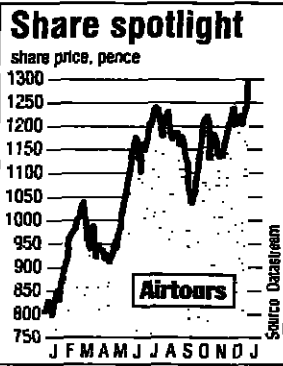
In a mysterious, never fully explained transaction the then Hanson conglomerate sold

the shares to the HSBC/Olayan combination at 192p each. The stake is now around 11.5 per cent.

A solid performance by Government stocks - gains of up to nearly £2 were scored - and a firm New York also offered the market inspiration. The likelihood UK and US interest rates will not be pushed higher and could even be reduced also helped sentiment.

Retailers swayed uncertainly as the market awaited the new year array of trading statements. Burton, due to report today, rose 4p to 1,400p and Boots, expected next Tuesday, firmed 18.5p to 899.5p.

Société Générale Strauss Turnbull introduced a note of caution, hanging sell signs on Argos (off 15.5p to 536p). Next (4p to 704p), Storehouse (3p to 234p) and Great Union Stores (7p to 772p).



Conglomerate Wassall hardened 1.5p to 336.5p, and shipbuilder Vosper Thornycroft held at 800p as Credit Lyonnais Laing highlighted the chances of share buy-backs.

Wilshaw, a distributor of industrial components, firmed to 38p. There is talk of a share buy-back although some expect a bid.

Football club Sheffield United fell 7.5p to 43p following reports chairman Mike McDonald had talked about "financial suicide" if top players are not sold soon to reduce the wage bill.

Pace Micro Technology, the television decoders group which crashed from 235p in the past year, firmed to 47p as Panmure Gordon placed stock. Total turnover was 13.8 million. Airtrons enjoyed a seasonal flourish, gaining 30p to 1,290p, a peak.

NRP, once called National-jumped Residential Properties, jumped 17.5p to 69.5p. It con-

firmed speculation of a reverse takeover of stockbroker Teather & Greenwood NRP, which came to market 18 months ago, has been run by Roland Cornish, formerly chief of corporate finance at Brown Shipley, for a year.

He made no secret of his plans to transform NRP into a rounded financial group. Ionica's rally came to an abrupt halt with the shares falling 24.5p to 112p; Tempel Life, the healthcare group, lost 7p to 57.5p.

There was a tinging of interest in biotech. Chiroscience added 14p to 237.5p as its cancer drug started phase one clinical trials, and Peptide Therapeutics gained 10p to 276.5p following the disclosure US group Pfizer had agreed to join in the development of Peptide's veterinary allergy vaccine.

TAKING STOCK

It's looking bleak for SkyNet Corporation, the controversial vehicle security group. Dealings in its shares were suspended at 4p on the fringe. Offer market "pending clarification of the company's financial position". An early Offer high-flyer, the shares soared to around 275p and the group almost transferred to AIM. But questions were raised over share dealings. However, the Securities & Futures Authority has said it not investigating SkyNet nor its directors.

Speculation of a bid for Southern Electric is strengthening. It is the last of the regional electricity groups to retain its independence. The shares rose 21p to 545p, a peak.

AIM-listed Cambridge Mineral Resources, thought to be near to clinching a big deal, rose 1p to 19p, a high.

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Alcoholic Beverages							
52 48	48	48	48	48	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 48	48	48	48	48	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 48	48	48	48	48	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 48	48	48	48	48	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Banks, Merchant							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Banks, Retail							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Breweries Pubs & Rest							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Chemicals							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Construction							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Electronics							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Engineering							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Food							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
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52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Health Care							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Household Goods							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Insurance							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	1% P/E	Chg
Investment Trusts							
52 39	39	39	39	39	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Media							
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How the next global crisis will be different for investors

**HAMISH
McRAE**
ON THE
FEAR OF
DEFLATION

Every year the Montreal-based *Bank Credit Analyst* prints a conversation between one of its long-time subscribers, Mr X, and the editors - a conversation about the main economic events and influences which will shape the world economy over the coming 12 months. The views of *BCA* editors are always interesting, for they take a longer-term view of world economic events than any other group I know. But this particular exercise is especially interesting this year, for it highlights the great transition that the world is making from an environment of inflation to one of deflation.

It is not, of course, certain yet, but it does appear that the great inflation of the second half of the 20th century is over - the greatest inflation that, for example, this country has known since the Middle Ages. What comes next? Is it a century of stable prices or one of slowly falling prices like the 19th century? A world of stable prices might enable a century of great prosperity, but the transition from one monetary environment to another might be botched.

Alan Greenspan, head of the US Federal Reserve Board, put an interesting perspective on

this in a speech at the weekend. He said that just as even moderate rates of inflation hampered economic performance, so moderate rates of deflation could also damage it. "Deflation, like inflation, would distort resource allocation and interfere with the economy's ability to reach its full potential." But deflation carried further risks, for as nominal interest rates could not go below zero, a world of falling prices could lead to high real interest rates.

The *BCA* editors start from the position that deflation is the key force shaping the investment outlook this year. Mr X is worried: might the Asian crisis trigger a global financial crisis, he asks?

Yes, is the reply, mainly because the cause of it, over-investment in manufacturing capacity, puts a powerful deflationary force on the whole of the world. Cheaper exports from the region will boost spending power in the main economies but their exports will be squeezed by this competition. The *BCA* people reckon that global economic growth will slow from around 4 per cent last year to perhaps 2.5 per cent this year, by comparison, in 1990-91 the global slowdown was from 4 per cent to 2 per cent.

If that is right, the world is facing in aggregate almost as

sharp a slowdown as it did in the early 1990s recession. One effect (see left-hand chart) will be for inflation, already below the level of the 1960s, to fall even further. "Once world economic growth is back on track, say by mid-1999, inflation will be so low that it will no longer figure in investors' plans."

This, the *BCA* team argues, will have an important effect on investment strategy, for bonds and equities will tend to move in opposite directions. For the last 30 years, in an inflationary environment, bonds and equities have tended to move in the same direction: when one goes up so does the other. That was because most shocks were monetary and inflationary: what was bad news for bonds was also bad news for companies. But in a deflationary world most shocks will be economic in nature. This affects companies but not bonds. So bonds will play a more important role in portfolios, for they will provide diversification. This negative correlation between bonds and equities has been evident in Japan for several years.

So far, falling inflation has been very positive for share prices (the middle graph shows the 20-year bull run), just as rising inflation during the 1970s was bad for shares. But shares are, they believe, over-valued

and equities will perform poorly. Bonds, by contrast, will do well. Once world growth is re-established, the long-term bull market in equities can resume. All this is based on the presumption of the *BCA* editors that the outlook will most likely be non-inflationary rather than deflationary. They think that is most likely, but acknowledge the danger that the world is walking on a tightrope. Mr X worries that there are similarities with the 1930s. *BCA* reckons that this is possible, but only as a worst-case scenario.

The conversation then moves to the world economy, where the main features are a slowdown in the US and UK with growth at about 2 per cent; actual recession in Japan (40 per cent of its exports go to Asia); and continental Europe battling into a strong headwind of corporate restructuring against a background of continuing weak domestic demand. As you can see in the right-hand graph, retail sales on the Continent have been flat or negative since 1991. The only large economy to grow above trend will be Canada, with about 3 per cent growth.

The practical impact on this for investment? The view, as summed by Mr X, is generally negative on equities, and particularly for emerging market

equities. The UK, Italy and maybe Germany will do best among the major markets, while the US market will "skate through" only on the back of a sharp fall in bond yields. "Once the deflation scare is over, the long wave will come into play again."

Currencies and commodities? Good for the dollar, bad for the yen - a fall to ¥150 could easily occur. Will the euro self-destruct? The *BCA* editors think on balance not, though it will be possible to make a no-cost bet against it by staying in the German mark. Since the euro will initially be perceived as a weak currency, the Swiss franc and the pound will tend to rise. Commodities: general weakness, including weakness in the gold market until the deflation scare is over.

Finally the conversation turns to risks. The *BCA* team note five big risks to the world economy: Asia-centred global recession; trade protection returning; stock market crash and deflationary spiral; EMU faltering; and dollar collapse as inflation returns.

The first three might run together, for if turmoil in Asia pushes the world into recession, there will be great protectionist pressure, which in turn might lead to a global (as opposed to just an Asian) stock market crash. EMU faltering, on the other hand, is a one-off. The problem is that financial markets are assuming EMU will occur on schedule and so failure, or even delay, would be very disruptive. As for the dollar collapse, that risk is at the other end of the spectrum, with Japan in particular suddenly repatriating its assets: maybe not so likely, but worth acknowledging.

Given this little list of uncertainties, Mr X has decided that he may this year need to drop by before next December in case things start moving rather too fast.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

**JOHN
WILLCOCK**



Here's a novel job creation scheme: Under the terms of the merger between SBC Warburg and UBS, most of the staff in London have had to reapply for their jobs. In practice, this means that the Warburgers have to interview the UBS people and the UBS chaps interview the Warburgers.

This bizarre charade has done nothing to lift lowly morale at UBS, where there is general acceptance that the plum jobs have already been earmarked for their new Warburg pals.

Demonstrating the cultural chasm that still separates Brits and Yanks despite decades of Americanisation over here, a management guru from across the pond has just written a new tome for businessmen: *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families*.

Stephen R Covey, author of the highly successful *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, has turned from the corporate to the private world, with predictably toe-cutting results.

For instance, who in Britain would dare urge their readers to "create a family mission statement - a compelling, unifying expression of shared vision and values"?

Mr Covey compares family life to the flight of an airplane - it's OK to be lost 90 per cent of the time so long as you know your destination. Perhaps this Disneyfication of business will go down well in Florida, but I can't see it catching on in Solihull.

Mr Covey says that UK based companies using his Covey Leadership Techniques include BT, Woolworths and British Nuclear Fuels. Obviously his touchy-feely, let's-hug-a-tree philosophy has rubbed off on Bill Cockburn, BT's group managing director.

Mr Cockburn built a fearsome reputation in his previous jobs at the Post Office and then

WH Smith for cutting jobs. Yet his first real act since his surprise appointment at BT late last year has been to allow BT's London staff to quaff an airline-style quarter bottle of wine with their Christmas meal. The lucky employees tucked into Parma ham and melon, turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding and the aforesaid plonk, all for £8 a head.

No doubt Mr Covey would approve of such loving, supportive behaviour. On the other hand, perhaps Mr Cockburn is just fattening the staff up for the chop.

Paul Chevalier Buysse is taking early retirement from BTR, a surprise since the Belgian-born executive director is generally reckoned to be popular with the company's chief executive, Ian Strachan. BTR is trying to turn itself from an unfashionable conglomerate into a focused engineering group. It also had the distinction in 1997 of being the worst performing share in the FTSE 100. BTR said yesterday that a replacement for Mr Buysse will be made in due course.

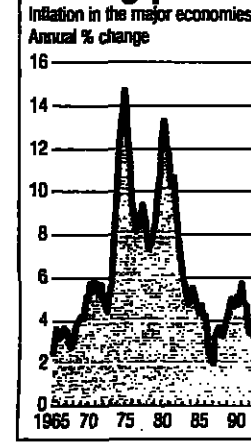
I rang the Treasury yesterday to chat with Geoffrey Robinson about many and varied offshore investments, but sadly the Paymaster-General's press minder, Malcolm Grade, was not in the office to arrange the interview. Mr Grade's roof had blown off in the weekend storms. This would normally be a cue for some pun on "windfall tax" or the like, but somehow I can't manage it. It must be Post Festive Season Ennui (PFSE).

Everyone seems to have a tale to tell from the recent bad weather. Lanson PR executive Tamsin Martle spent Christmas at her family's home in Wales, the region worst hit by power cuts, where the electricity was at least restored by mid-afternoon on Christmas Day, just in time to cook the turkey.

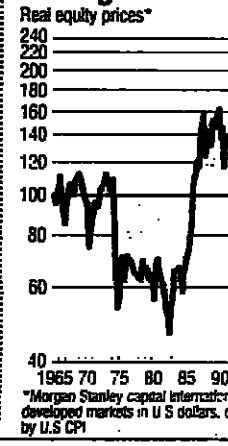
Emma Kane, a director at the Basham & Coyle PR partnership, wins the sympathy prize. Her car was broken into and all her family Christmas presents stolen just before Yuletide. It was the early hours of Christmas Eve before the window was repaired and, on the following Sunday, husband Frank, soon to star in the rebirth of *Sunday Business*, set off from their Brighton home to watch Spurs play Arsenal, leaving the car but taking the car keys with him. This meant he had to go all the way back to Brighton to collect the family after the game. Frank supports Spurs, who dropped into the relegation zone after salvaging a single point for the draw. I expect he's glad to be back at work.

John Dobby has retired as chief executive of Meyer, the building materials group which owns Jewson, after 39 years with the company. As indicated last June, Alan Petersen, the managing director of Jewson, will assume the helm of the group.

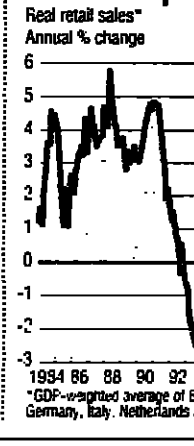
Falling prices



Rising shares



Flat Europe



Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00		
Australia	2.5369	2.5372	
Austria	2.0197	2.0197	
Belgium	6.1985	6.1985	
Canada	2.2929	2.2929	
Denmark	11.3300	11.3300	
ECU	1.5000	1.5000	
East Germany	0.0028	0.0028	
France	6.9600	6.9600	
Germany	2.0706	2.0706	
Greece	47.0150	47.0150	
Hong Kong	12.6444	12.6444	
Italy	1.7733	1.7733	
Japan	162.6250	162.6250	
Malaysia	2.7154	2.7154	
Mexico	6.7007	6.7007	
Netherlands	3.3534	3.3534	
New Zealand	2.0630	2.0630	
Norway	2.2250	2.2250	
Portugal	3.0400	3.0400	
South Africa	2.0909	2.0909	
Spain	16.6372	16.6372	
Sweden	13.0100	13.0100	
Switzerland	2.4888	2.4888	
US	1.0000		

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
Argentina	12.0000		
Brazil	1.2000		
China	8.2700		
Czech Rep	2.0000		
Egypt	3.3800		
Ghana	2.2500		
Hungary	3.3400		
India	27.0000		
Indonesia	1.6000		
Kuwait	0.4000		
Nigeria	1.2000		

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Term
UK	7.25%	3 month
France	5.50%	3 month
Germany	5.50%	3 month
Italy	5.50%	3 month
Spain	5.50%	3 month
Japan	5.50%	3 month
US	5.50%	3 month

Bond Yields

Country	3 month	1 yr	2 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Australia	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86
Canada	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86
ECU	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86
France	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86
Germany	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86
Italy	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86
Japan	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86
US	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86	4.86

Money Market Rates

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%	7.25%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

Commodity Indices

Index	Value
Gold	372.31
Oil	17.21
Wheat	1.14
Corn	1.14
Soybeans	1.14

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Price
ABG Growth Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Income Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Property Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG World Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Asia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Europe Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG US Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Japan Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Australia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG New Zealand Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG South Africa Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Hong Kong Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Taiwan Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Korea Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG India Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG China Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Russia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Brazil Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Mexico Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Argentina Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Chile Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Peru Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Colombia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Venezuela Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Ecuador Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Bolivia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Paraguay Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Uruguay Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Cuba Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Haiti Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Dominican Republic Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Puerto Rico Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Virgin Islands Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Cayman Islands Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Bermuda Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Anguilla Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Antigua Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Barbados Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Belize Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Brunei Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Cambodia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG East Timor Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Georgia Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Grenada Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Guatemala Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Guinea Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Guyana Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Honduras Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Hungary Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Iceland Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Ireland Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Israel Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Italy Trust Ltd	1.00
ABG Jamaica Trust Ltd	1.00
ABK Growth Trust Ltd	1.00
ABK Income Trust Ltd	1.00
ABK Property Trust Ltd	1.00
ABK World Trust Ltd	1.00
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ABK East Timor Trust Ltd	1.00
ABK Georgia Trust Ltd	1.00
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ABK Guinea Trust Ltd	1.00
ABK Guyana Trust Ltd	1.00
ABK Honduras Trust Ltd	1.00
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ABK Iceland Trust Ltd	1.00
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ABK Israel Trust Ltd	1.00
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ABK Jamaica Trust Ltd	1.00

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Shawbury Trust	7830	425	511
Shawbury N Am Act	7830	425	511
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Shawbury Asia	7830	425	511
Shawbury Europe	7830	425	511
Shawbury US	7830	425	511
Shawbury Japan	7830	425	511
Shawbury Growth	7830	425	511
Shawbury Income	7830	425	511
Shawbury Trust	7830	425	511
Shawbury N Am Act	7830	425</	

Coughlan carries US tour card with pride

It is not unusual for a star of college golf to turn professional and immediately join the US tour. But, as Andy Farrell reports, for one young Irishman to gain playing rights for his rookie season in both America and Europe is unique.

Last month in Florida, the Swede Joakim Haeggman decided to follow the Jesper Parnevik route to success but did not earn a full card at US Qualifying School in Florida. Richie Coughlan did, finishing ninth at Gretna, although the 23-year-old Irishman had only held his European tour card for less than two weeks.

Coughlan is thought to be unique in passing every stage of both the US and European qualifying schools without having played as a professional in any other tournament. Whether that is strictly true or not, it is a tremendous feat that induces jet-lag just thinking about it.

"It was just adrenaline that got me through," Coughlan said. "I was probably more fatigued than I thought, but what better motivation is there than trying to get a tour card?"

Though he secured the 33rd card on offer at the rain-ravaged European school - he played four rounds in 11 days but spent the rest of the time sleeping - his main aim was to get his place on the US tour.

"Even though I had my European card, it didn't matter to me," he said. "The prizes are so much better over there. You see it on TV and it just looks great; the organisation and the courses, and the money is much better. I went over there with a definite goal."

Coughlan may hail from Birr,

Co Offaly, but after five years at Clemson University in South Carolina, where he graduated with a degree in communications and psychology, America has become home. He plans to make his base near the college since his friends remain in the area, he is welcomed to all the local courses and it is only two hours from Atlanta airport.

"Nothing against over here, but you get used to it out there," Coughlan said. "If you play golf seriously, it is a great place to be. Most of the courses are manicured perfectly and it is target golf, which is the fairest golf. If it's 155 yards and an eight-iron, you are not going to get this pony bounce or anything."

"You have the same speed greens, which is good for your

at East Sussex National, but after that he was an accumulative 39 under par for 24 rounds. And this is meant to be the most pressurised golf gets. While the ability to shoot a low round always provided a cushion, that he never scored worse than a 73 is even more impressive.

He breezed through the first stage of the US tour school at Savannah, Georgia, then won the European PQ2 section at Emporada with a last-round 65. The second stage of the US school was at a course in Florence, South Carolina, he knew well and Coughlan opened with a 64. After surviving the European finals, the last phase of the American school meant a trip back to Florida.

Having got into position over the first four rounds, the last two of the 108-hole marathon revealed Coughlan's quick grasping of vital qualities of being a professional golfer. "I wasn't swinging as well as I wanted to, but I didn't hit any destructive shots. The fifth round was not a pretty thing, just a pure grind, and the last round was adrenaline."

"I was playing with two guys but [they] were four or five over, while I was one under. I felt bad for those two guys to see it all waste away for them. I had 24 putts in the last round, which was a saviour. It is always nice when you putt well under pressure, but if all rounds of golf felt like the last round there, I wouldn't play."

Coughlan, a long but straight hitter in the modern trend, has the necessary attributes to succeed on the US tour. Getting into contention to win would not phase him, but he knows what his first objective must be. "To retain my card," he said. "There would be nothing worse than struggling and then having to go through the same thing again. It was hell on earth."

NEW FACES FOR '98

RICHEL COUGHLAN

confidence instead of playing on different greens every week and wondering what the ball is going to do. Being at college over there has taught me discipline. It made you realise how hard you have to practice, but you look back over your scores and see them getting better."

A record of one win and six top-10 finishes in 11 events was good enough for the Great Britain & Ireland selectors to pick Coughlan for the Walker Cup at Quaker Ridge. The result was a bouncering for the visitors but that did not reflect the way Coughlan played, nor affected his confidence as he set off on his transatlantic adventure.

He failed to get through the first European Pre-qualifying



Richie Coughlan: 'If you play golf seriously [America] is the place to be'

Photograph: David Maher/Sportsfile

Montgomerie mines \$1m in the desert

Colin Montgomerie survived a few late scares to beat Davis Love by two holes in the 36-hole final of the Andersen Consulting World Championship in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The win earned the Scot \$1m (£660,000) and he can now sit back and enjoy the benefits of his latest big-money bonanza before returning to action in Dubai after a month's break.

Montgomerie finished the first 18 holes one up after twice going behind in the opening exchanges. At that stage he was happy to be in front but far from satisfied with his overall performance. "I don't think either of us played to our potential but it was always going to be very close," he said.

Europe's No 1 kept hold of that slender advantage over the first 10 holes of the second round before hitting Love with three winning holes out of the next four.

The path looked clear for Montgomerie to cruise home - lying four up with four holes to play. However, the partisan crowd were given hope of a home victory as Love took the next three holes. Yet the Scot's nerve held and a superb second shot at the par-five 18th sealed the issue. His ball lay smugly in the middle of the green as Love missed an eagle putt and conceded victory.

"It was a great game," Montgomerie said. "I always thought it would be close, although not that close at four up with four to play. Davis hit back with marvellous birdies at 15 and 16 and then I gave him 17 to send it down to the wire."

"But the second on 18 was marvellous. I would have been delighted with that shot in a practice round, never mind the pressure that was on at the time."

"When you lose three on the trot you start to worry about pushing it this way or that way - but I'm glad I hit the green."

PHILIPS



Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are for all League games played until Sunday January 1st. The league table includes all scores up to December 28th.

Our latest monthly winner is Ms Isabel McDonald. Her team 'Willy's Wizard' has 179 points and wins her a pair of tickets to Englands next home international.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in the *Independent* on Sunday.

HOW TO SCORE	
player scores	4
clean sheet	4
winning goal	1
successful assist	3
yellow card	-1
red card	-3
manager's team wins	3
draw	1

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 4 JANUARY

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 28 DECEMBER

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr D Baker	Deja Vu	719
2	Mr B Sral	The Unouchables	718
3	Mr D Aston	Billy Boys 2nd II	717
4	Mr B Sral	Simply The Best	717
5	Miss Lisa Wild	Amerreast AFC	716
6	Mr Acher	No Wright	716
7	Mr J McCrossan	Washed Up Army	711
8	Mr S Lyons	Unbeatable	711
9	Mr C King	Seeking Victory	710
10	Mr P Tuffer	Pins 4	710
11	Mr D Evans	Boothend End Old Boys	710
12	Mr J Cox	Southville FC	710
13	Mr J Boyle	Wembley Bounders	707
14	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Brains	707
15	Mr T Lyons	Diana's Demons	705
16	Mr D Edmondson	Edmo United	700
17	Mr D Aston	Billy Boys 3rd II	700
18	Mr G Bell	Stunning Sonets	700
19	Mr G Bell	The Hair Monsters	694
20	Mr J Cox	Retro Rovers	694
21	Mr D Cockroyd	Jack's Lads	693
22	Mr G Ford	Linthorpe Rovers	692
23	Mr A Choudhry	Nikies 9th II	692
24	Mr J McCrossan	Washed Up Army	692
25	Mr K Boyle	Clogston Rovers	692
26	Mr I Brown	The Hoofers	691
27	Mr S Scott	The Dream Team	691
28	Mr C Thomas	Scunthorpe Extras	690
29	Mr D Baker	Dead Heat	689
30	Mr A Cunningham	The Zebras	688
31	Mr M Ewins	Mikes C Team	686
32	Mr S Man	Rebecca Rovers	684
33	Mr D McCarrar	McCarra II	683
34	Mr M Ward	Team A 40	683
35	Mr S Walker	Daniels United	682
36	Mr C Hempstead	Viva Baby 10	682
37	Mr M Pawley	Robert's Raiders	682
38	Mr Brady	Look Lively	682
39	Mr M Ewins	I've Scared But Will I Finish	681
40	Mr M Ewins	Mikes A Team	681
41	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	681
42	Mr M Rickard	Alber Lamborg	681
43	Mr D Baker	SFF Rules	680
44	Mr F Henderson	Secondary Celtic	680
45	Mr J Hayes	Early Birds	680
46	Mr P Cridland	PDC2	679

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE (£k)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE (£k)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE (£k)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	WE	OF	VALUE (£k)
GOALKEEPERS																							
300	Sutton	ARS	0	47	4.0	454	Anderson	BLA	0	4	2.5	679	Shirpe	LEE	0	0	3.5	846	Kuchery	COV	0	42	3.5
301	Ladic	ARS	0	0	1.0	455	Elliot	BOL	0	7	2.5	848	Ribeiro	NEW	0	41	1.5	849	Hackley	COV	0	16	1.5
302	Manning	ARS	0	0	1.0	456	Fairclough	BLA	0	3	2.5	850	Langbell	CRY	0	0	1.0	851	Robson	CRY	0	27	2.0
303	Rosch	AV	0	0	1.0	457	Sagart	BLA	0	18	2.5	852	Parlor	LEE	0	10	2.5	852	Parlor	CRY	0	27	2.0
304	Oakes	AV	0	7	1.5	458	Bergman	BLA	0	52	1.5	853	Freder	CRY	0	0	1.6	853	Freder	CRY	0	27	2.0
305	Watson	BLA	0	12	1.0	459	Cart	CHE	1	34	3.0	854	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	854	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
306	Lane	BLA	0	12	1.0	460	Duberry	CHE	1	34	3.0	855	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	855	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
307	Flowers	BLA	0	40	5.2	461	Kotomica	CHE	1	36	3.0	856	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	856	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
308	Filan	BLA	0	12	1.0	462	Petescu	CHE	1	76	1.0	857	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	857	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
309	Brangan	BLA	0	12	1.0	463	Lambourde	CHE	2	30	3.0	858	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	858	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
310	De Goy	CHE	1	57	1.0	464	Shaw	CHE	0	24	1.5	859	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	859	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
311	Groves	CHE	0	0	1.0	465	Lebeuf	CHE	0	64	5.0	860	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	860	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
312	Heidman	COV	0	8	1.0	466	Sinclair	CHE	1	26	2.5	861	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	861	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
313	Nash	CRY	0	0	1.0	467	Dash	COV	0	27	2.5	862	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	862	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
314	Wright	CRY	0	0	1.0	468	Edwards	CRY	0	43	2.5	863	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	863	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
315	Wright	CRY	0	0	1.0	469	Barrow	CRY	0	11	1.5	864	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	864	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
316	Poon	CRY	0	20	1.2	470	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	865	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	865	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
317	Hood	DER	0	24	1.0	471	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	866	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	866	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
318	Southern	EVE	0	3	1.5	472	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	867	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	867	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
319	Gerrard	EVE	0	3	1.5	473	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	868	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	868	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
320	Martyn	LEE	0	49	3.5	474	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	869	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	869	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
321	Benny	LEE	0	0	1.0	475	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	870	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	870	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
322	Keller	LEE	0	43	2.5	476	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	871	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	871	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
323	Reed	LEE	0	0	1.0	477	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	872	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	872	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
324	James	LIV	0	48	1.5	478	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	873	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	873	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
325	Warner	LIV	0	0	1.0	479	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	874	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	874	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
326	Schmid	MAN	0	63	5.5	480	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	875	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	875	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
327	Van Der Gouw	MAN	0	0	1.0	481	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	876	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	876	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
328	Green	MAN	0	26	2.5	482	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	877	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	877	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
329	Holop	NEW	13	13	2.5	483	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	878	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	878	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
330	Freeman	SHEF	0	39	3.0	484	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	879	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	879	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
331	Taylor	SOU	0	0	1.0	485	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	880	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	880	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
332	Beasant	SOU	0	0	1.0	486	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	881	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	881	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
333	Walker	TOT	0	45	3.0	487	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	882	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	882	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
334	Bardson	TOT	0	0	1.0	488	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	883	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	883	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
335	Milne	WH	0	13	1.5	489	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	884	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	884	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
336	Sullivan	WH	0	43	2.5	490	Edwards	CRY	0	24	1.5	885	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	885	Lepp	CRY	0	27	2.0
DEFENDERS																							
400	Dixon	ARS	0	34	2.5	500	Wright	LIV	0	10	3.0	800	Wenger	ARS	0	34	2.5	900	Wenger	ARS	0	34	2.5
401	Upton	ARS	0	0	2.0	501	Ruddick	LIV	0	7	3.0	901	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	901	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
402	Peta	ARS	0	48	4.0	502	Hartson	LIV	0	21	1.2	902	Hodgson	BLA	0	16	1.5	902	Hodgson	BLA	0	16	1.5
403	Grimsdell	ARS	0	22	2.7	503	Frankie	LIV	0	42	2.5	903	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	903	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
404	Winterburn	ARS	0	54	2.5	504	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	904	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	904	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
405	Adams	ARS	0	27	2.5	505	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	905	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	905	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
406	Bould	ARS	0	28	4.5	506	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	906	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	906	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
407	Adams	ARS	0	10	4.5	507	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	907	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	907	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
408	Adams	ARS	0	27	2.5	508	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	908	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	908	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
409	Keown	ARS	0	10	4.5	509	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	909	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	909	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
410	Saunders	AV	0	40	3.0	510	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	910	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	910	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
411	Nelson	AV	0	47	3.0	511	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	911	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	911	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
412	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	512	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	912	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	912	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
413	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	513	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	913	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	913	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
414	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	514	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	914	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	914	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
415	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	515	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	915	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	915	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
416	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	516	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	916	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	916	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
417	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	517	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	917	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	917	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
418	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	518	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	918	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	918	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
419	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	519	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	919	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	919	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
420	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	520	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	920	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	920	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
421	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	521	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	921	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	921	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
422	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	522	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	922	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	922	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
423	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	523	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	923	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	923	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
424	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	524	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	924	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	924	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
425	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	525	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	925	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	925	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
426	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	526	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	926	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	926	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
427	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	527	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	927	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	927	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
428	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	528	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	928	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	928	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
429	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	529	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	929	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	929	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
430	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	530	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	930	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	930	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
431	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	531	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	931	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	931	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
432	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	532	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	932	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	932	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
433	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	533	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	933	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6	933	Lepp	CRY	0	0	1.6
434	Wright	AV	0	37	3.0	534	Barnes	LIV	0	24	1.5	934											

Marv Levy's retirement last week at the age of 72. Phillips, the defensive coordinator under Levy for the last three years, was head coach in Denver for two years, but was sacked after they finished the 1994 season with a 7-9 record. The Bills had 6-10 record last season. "There was talk about other [candidates]," the Bills general manager John Butler said. "Wade was the first person interviewed and the only person interviewed."

Rugby money men propose five-year block on relegation

The investors behind England's leading professional rugby union clubs are due to meet tomorrow to discuss a range of radical proposals with the potential for another bout of bloodletting.

Chris Hewett reports on the latest upheavals in a volatile sporting landscape.

The money men are running out of patience and revolution is in the air. Unless there is a drastic about-face by the governing bodies charged with running English and Continental club competitions, some of the most influential financiers in the game will turn their backs on the Heineken Cup, the European Conference and, it is feared in some quarters, press for the creation of a self-perpetuating closed shop for the professional elite.

Representatives of the vast majority of England's biggest clubs go into emergency session tomorrow armed with a crisis agenda and a raft of uncompromising ideas aimed at setting

the shambolic and money-leaking world of pro rugby to rights. Among the more extreme suggestions on the table will be a Heineken Cup boycott, the creation of a new Anglo-French tournament and a move to block Premiership promotion and relegation for a five-year period.

The owners will demand that the board of European Rugby Cup Ltd, the body set up to administer the two cross-border tournaments, tears up next season's fixture schedule, which effectively shuts down the Allied Dunbar Premiership for six long and expensive weeks. "The Premiership must take precedence over everything bar

full international matches, not play second fiddle to Europe," said one club insider yesterday.

"There is a massive amount of frustration and many of us want out: we have delegates on ERC but they are fighting a losing battle against the Welsh, Scots and Irish. You can't run a business on the basis of constant interruption and, if we don't get satisfaction, the momentum towards a boycott will be unstoppable. How keen will television be to broadcast a competition with no English presence?"

Bath, who have long identified the Heineken Cup as their top priority and face the holders, Brive, in this season's final

on 31 January, will almost certainly argue against a boycott but the West Countrymen will inevitably find themselves in a minority, possibly of one.

Some clubs, notably Richmond and Gloucester, are pushing for European business to be conducted in midweek, but others, including Northampton, disagree.

"It's a physical impossibility for players to turn out three times in eight days," Ian McGeechan, the director of rugby at Franklins Gardens, said. "They don't do it in American football, which is the closest parallel in terms of intensity. They'd squeeze another 10 games out of their guys if they

possibly could – the Americans are the most professional people in the world when it comes to organising sport – but they know they can't do it. Midweek is a non-starter in my book."

While the clubs are ready and willing to engage in a trial of strength with ERC, they run the risk of opening up a second front with the Rugby Football Union if they attempt to turn the Premiership into a closed shop. Cliff Brittle, the RFU chairman who stood for election on a grass-roots platform, would have to fight any such move tooth and nail or lose all credibility.

However, Sir John Hall, the hard-line multi-millionaire

behind Newcastle, and like-minded colleagues, have long favoured a closed shop, knowing full well that it would lead to an irreparable split with the RFU and give them the freedom to pursue an independent future. Several owners have privately accused Brittle of playing a waiting game in the hope that the investors will lose patience and pull out of the game altogether.

Meanwhile, the relatively quiet waters of the Tetley's Bitter Cup produced a ripple of intriguing fifth-round ties yesterday. Four of the last eight matches are likely to be all-Premiership affairs, including a heavyweight bout between

Saracens and Leicester – always assuming that the title contenders win their postponed fourth-round games at Blackheath and Coventry respectively.

At least one quarter-final place will be filled by a non-elite club – the winners of the postponed match between West Hartlepool and Wakefield will play either Rugby or Reading in round five – while Northampton have home advantage over Gloucester in the one guaranteed top-flight collision.

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP FIFTH-ROUND TIES: West Hartlepool v Wakefield, Reading v Gloucester, Northampton v Gloucester, Saracens v Leicester, Wakefield v Rugby, Coventry v Leicester, Leicester v Saracens, Coventry v Leicester, Leicester v Saracens. (Times to be played on 24 and 25 January.)

FOOTBALL

Shearer may be ready for early return to action

Alan Shearer has given a boost to both Newcastle and England supporters after resuming training yesterday. The striker has not played this season after injuring his right ankle in early August.

Although both Shearer and his manager, Kenny Dalglish, have refused to put a date on his likely return to action, he could be back by late January or early February, at least a month ahead of schedule.

Andy Hinchcliffe wants a signing-off fee from Everton before he joins Tottenham. The defender has asked his club to settle the loyalty payment in his contract, as he believes that, as he has not asked to leave, he should be compensated. If Hinchcliffe had not signed a new contract, he would have been a free agent this summer and therefore, he argues, leaving now for a fee would bring Everton a big profit.

Another unsettled Goodison player is Gary Speed, who may make the move to Hillsborough after Sheffield Wednesday offered £5m plus Graham Hyde, as well as doubling Speed's wages, although the midfielder may yet opt for a move to Newcastle.

Despite the controversy surrounding his decision to end Saturday's match just before

Wimbledon scored, the referee Steve Dunn will take charge of their FA Cup replay with Wrexham on 13 January.

Stevenage Borough plan to double the capacity of their ground in order to keep home advantage for their FA Cup fourth-round match with Newcastle. The GM Vauxhall Conference club intend to install an extra 6,000 seats for the match, which is scheduled to be televised live by Sky Sports on Sunday 25 January.

After failing to return on time after his Christmas break in Brazil, Emerson may find himself on a permanent holiday from Middlesbrough. Bryan Robson has fined the player and banned him from training.

Leeds United have agreed to sell Pierre Laurent back to Bastia for £500,000 – double the fee they paid for him. Meanwhile, their former striker Tomas Brolin has joined Crystal Palace for a two-week training spell.

Andy Hunt, West Bromwich Albion's leading scorer, may be going to the World Cup finals in France this summer, after contacting the Austrian Football Association saying he is eligible to play for them because he has an Austrian grandmother.

— Catherine Riley



Alan Shearer shows he is well on the road to recovery as he leaps into a Newcastle training session at Lumley Castle, Co Durham, yesterday

Photograph: Owen Humphreys/PA

Wenger believes in power of Bergkamp and Wright

Arsène Wenger insists he has no fear of embarrassment tonight at the hands of John Hartson, the in-form striker Wenger allowed to leave Arsenal for West Ham last February.

Wenger has placed his faith with his strike pairing of Dennis Bergkamp and Ian Wright, despite their recent barren run. Arsenal are still cashing in on Hartson's success – in a deal initially struck with the Hammers at £3.5m but bringing them regular additional payments tied to the Welshman's performance. Hartson's five goals helped save West Ham from relegation last season and put the first bonus in the Arsenal bank. The next is due when he reaches the 25-goal mark and he needs just two more for that quarter-century going into tonight's Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final tie at Upton Park.

Eventually the price could rise as high as £5m but even that would be scant consolation to Arsenal if their renewed interest in English football's third most important prize dies at the feet of Hartson.

Wenger admitted: "I knew he would do well when I sold him but it doesn't mean I regret the decision. We could have kept him but West Ham offered him a chance and he wanted to go because most of the time he was just on the bench here behind Bergkamp and Wright."

"In football I have learned it is no use looking back. You cannot change things. We have not been scoring goals recently but I find it hard to believe that we will not score them again. Bergkamp and Wright scored 19 of

our 20 goals in the early part of the season. They were a great partnership then and they will be again. And if people criticise me for letting Hartson go, whatever happens [tonight], I think it would be stupid."

Wenger, in fact, has already faced a similar situation. West Ham came to Highbury in the Premiership in September, were soundly beaten 4-0 and Hartson hardly had a kick. Since then, however, Arsenal have faltered apart from the temporary lift of November's win against Manchester United.

They have sunk to sixth in the League, and both Bergkamp and Wright have scored one goal apiece in their last nine appearances. The drought – just five Arsenal goals in seven games – reached a head with Saturday's scoreless home draw with the First Division strugglers Port Vale in the FA Cup.

Despite suggestions of disharmony in the dressing-room, Wenger insisted: "Our attitude and spirit is still all right. And I believe we can still do well in both the cups and the League this season."

Wright returns from a two-match ban, with Wenger needing to keep the goal-scoring powers of his 34-year-old record-breaker after the teenager Nicolas Anelka failed to prove an adequate replacement.

Wenger yesterday dismissed a report from Croatia that he is planning a £6m bid for Zagreb's former Barcelona striker, Robert Prosinecki, and another from Turkey that he wants Fenerbahce's Nigerian defender Uche Okechukwu.

"There is no chance for either of them to join Arsenal," he said while admitting: "I probably expected too much from Anelka. He is only 18 and he knows there is high expectation of him, but maybe it is still a little too soon for him."

"In many ways he is in a similar position to the one Hartson was in here, getting only one or two games at a time to make an impression."

"At a club like Arsenal you cannot keep players in the side for very long if they are not producing, but although we are looking at the transfer market every day for new players but there is always great competition for the right ones even when they do become available."

West Ham, who have won 12 of their 13 games at Upton Park this season, are sure to present another stern test of Arsenal's resolve. Emmanuel Petit, the French midfielder, has given Wenger a boost by recovering from a kick on a calf muscle sustained against Port Vale but Lee Dixon and David Platt are still out with groin injuries.

For West Ham, Steve Potts was ready to fill in again for West Ham in midfield, as Steve Lomas is suspended, while John Moncur and Ian Bishop are injured. Tim Breacker is also ruled out with ankle and knee problems, but Andy Impey is ready to return after missing Saturday's FA Cup match against Emley through injury.

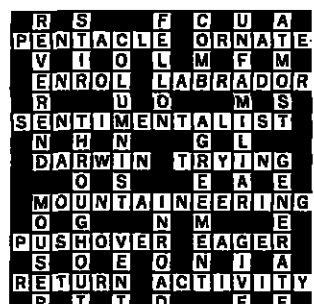
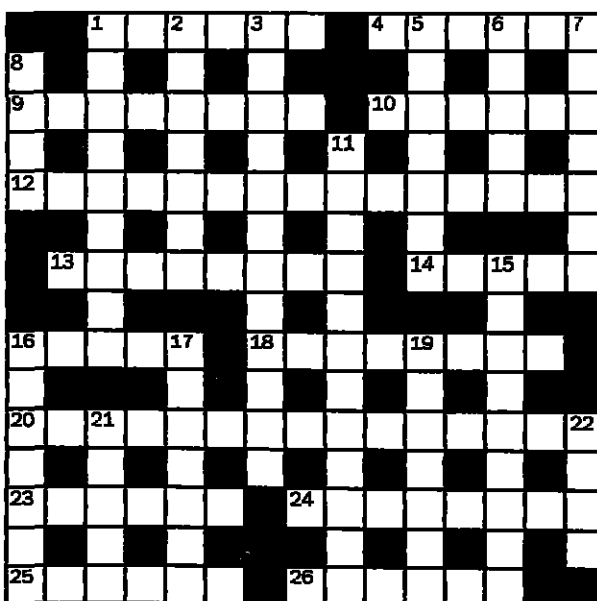
Meanwhile, Iain Dowie is set to stay at the club at least for the time being after the striker rejected loan moves to Queen's Park Rangers and Fulham.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3590, Tuesday 6 January

By Achard

Monday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 Take for granted, say, a pound note? (6)
- 4 Shovelled food in like lightning? (6)
- 9 Certainly suppressing drink law could cause illness (8)
- 10 On street wet weather causes tension (6)
- 12 Results of pressure from the electronics industry? (7,8)
- 13 Graduate takes time applying maths to household items (4,4)
- 14 Shot close to ball (5)
- 16 Staple and nail will secure middle of sheet (5)
- 18 Happy about short bull's performance which yields fruit (8)

DOWN

- 2 Rash results from such cheating with nets let out (8,7)
- 23 Possibly weak, dealing with illness, having little resistance within (6)
- 24 Fighter came down without tail, causing a headache (8)
- 25 Greek takes comfort from old film (6)
- 26 Smile about lord seen returning to madhouse (6)
- 1 Hate having to take a short time in a ship to Spain (9)
- 2 Large patch or the equivalent in school (7)
- 3 Beef about crops in this? (5,7)
- 5 Producing light topic rejected by a learner (7)

Colour of tailless fish featured in "The King & I" (7,5)

- 7 Time for one to abandon unpleasant powerful colour? (7)
- 8 Used Penny to be a pest? (4)
- 11 Steam off given this? (6,6)
- 15 Be unabbreviated? (9)
- 16 Striking remains found in container? Good (7)
- 17 Soldier comes up wearing clothing for ramble (7)
- 19 Hold attention in unappealing rally (7)
- 21 Inspire one doctor with extremes of underperformance (5)
- 22 Sweden was first in thing like bobsleigh (4)

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